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FBIS-EAS-93-012 CONTENTS *21 January 1993*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Congratulatory Messages Sent to Clinton, Gore *[KYODO]* 1
    Further on Congratulations Messages *[KYODO]* 1
Business Hopes for U.S. Reforms Under Clinton *[KYODO]* 1
Opposition Hopes for Promotion of Relations *[KYODO]* 1
'Prominent' Women View New U.S. First Lady *[KYODO]* 2
Miyazawa Backs U.S. Air Strike on Iraq *[KYODO]* 2
Spokesman: Iraq Unlikely To Attack Neighbors *[KYODO]* 3
Statement Supports 18 Jan Attack on Iraq *[KYODO]* 3
MITI on Fostering of U.S. Competitiveness *[KYODO]* 3
Tanahashi Pessimistic Regarding 19 Jan TNC *[KYODO]* 3
Kono Reserves Comment on U.S. Trade Ties *[KYODO]* 4
Trade Minister Mori Responds to EC Request *[KYODO]* 4
Accord Reached With EC on Competition Seminar *[KYODO]* 4
Yeltsin 'Prepared To Visit' Tokyo Before G-7 *[KYODO]* 5
Tokyo, Moscow Open Two-Day Trade Conference *[KYODO]* 5
    Trade Talks End 'Inconclusively' *[KYODO]* 5
Egypt's Foreign Minister Musa Pays Visit 5
    Calls on Israel To Compromise *[KYODO]* 5
    Urges Even-Handed UN Approach *[KYODO]* 6
    Expresses Disapproval of Iraq Raids *[KYODO]* 7
Miyazawa Returns Home After ASEAN Tour *[KYODO]* 7
Watanabe's Call for Constitution Debate Viewed *[KYODO]* 7
Papers Differ on Miyazawa Constitution Remark *[KYODO]* 7
Revision of Peace Constitution Said Premature *[KYODO]* 8
Miyazawa Warns of Public Distrust in Politics *[KYODO]* 8
Nakayama Wants More Peacekeeping Missions *[KYODO]* 8
Role in Cambodia Said Gaining Understanding *[KYODO]* 9
Watanabe: Some Resist Larger Role for Tokyo *[KYODO]* 10
SDPJ Chairman-Elect Views Party Reform *[Tokyo TV]* 10
LDP Document Supports Reform, Rice Ban *[KYODO]* 12
Hata Considers Running for LDP Presidency *[KYODO]* 12
Akamatsu Agrees to Nomination for SDPJ Post *[KYODO]* 13
    Calls for More Flexibility *[KYODO]* 13
Yamahana Vows Thorough Sagawa Scandal Probe *[KYODO]* 14
    Threatens To Hold Up Budget Debate *[KYODO]* 15
Miyazawa Expresses Concern Over Economy *[KYODO]* 15
Finance Official on Taxes, Fund Recycling *[KYODO]* 16
LDP Panel Chief Urges Study of Tax Cut *[KYODO]* 16
Drop in Plants, Equipment Investments Noted *[KYODO]* 17

North Korea

Radio Links U.S. Policy Change, Improved Relations *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
    U.S. 'Under Obligation' To Aid Reunification *[KCNA]* 18
Pyongyang Reports 18 Jan Air Strike on Iraq *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
JNCC Chairman Sends Telephone Message to South *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19

U.S. Defense Department Publication Draws Criticism 20
    KCNA: Upholding 'Imperialist Interests' 20
    NODONG SINMUN: 'Slandered' North *[KCNA]* 20
    Radio: Making Invasion Plans *[Pyongyang Radio]* 20
NODONG SINMUN Wary of Japanese 'Political Power' *[KCNA]* 21
    'Groundlessly' Slinging Mud *[KCNA]* 22
UNDP Signs Document on Energy Development *[KCNA]* 22
NODONG SINMUN Urges Greater Electricity Yield *[Pyongyang Radio]* 22

South Korea

Kim Il-song Reportedly Visited China in Secret *[YONHAP]* 24
DPRK Reportedly Urges U.S. To Modify Pyongyang Policy *[YONHAP]* 24
No Tae-u Congratulates Clinton *[YONHAP]* 24
    Additional Greetings *[YONHAP]* 25
North To Attend JNCC Chairmen's 25 Jan Contact *[Seoul Radio]* 25
    Discussing Team Spirit 'Inappropriate' *[YONHAP]* 25
DPRK Reportedly 'Frustrated' Over ROK-Russia Ties *[YONHAP]* 25
DPRK Officials To Attend UNDP Meeting, Visit Seoul *[YONHAP]* 26
Government Examining 'Package Settlement' of North-South Issues *[SEOUL SINMUN 18 Jan]* . 26
North-South Dialogue Office Reportedly To Be Scrapped *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 18 Jan]* 26
Economic Woes Force DPRK To Reorganize Foreign Missions *[CHUNGANG ILBO 18 Jan]* 27
North Bans Sunday Driving To Save Energy *[YONHAP]* 27
North Korea Proposes Barter Trade *[Seoul Radio]* 27
Russian Economic Institute Analyzes DPRK Economy *[CHUNGANG ILBO 19 Jan]* 28
Officials Estimate 1992 GNP Growth *[YONHAP]* 28
Beef Imports To Drop Due to Consumption Decline *[YONHAP]* 28
Finance Minister Urges Interest Rate Cut *[YONHAP]* 29
Government To Accelerate Economic Negotiations With PRC *[YONHAP]* 29
Bank of Korea Decides To Cut Rediscount Rate *[THE KOREA TIMES 17 Jan]* 29
People's Construction Bank of China To Open Seoul Office *[YONHAP]* 30
Decrease in Letters of Credit Impacts Trade *[YONHAP]* 30
Government Confirms 12 Victims of Agent Orange *[YONHAP]* 31
Prosecution Lifts Travel Ban on Chong Chu-yong *[YONHAP]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

ABSDF: Junta 'Afraid of Losing Control' *[AFP]* 32
Diplomats: SLORC Prevented Protests *[AFP]* 32
Rebels Invited To Surrender, Join Convention *[Rangoon TV]* 33

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

King, Premier Congratulate Clinton *[BERNAMA]* 34
Commentary Views Allied Attacks on Iraq *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 34
Iraq Urged To Take 'Conciliatory' Posture *[NEW SUNDAY TIMES 17 Jan]* 34
Ramos Visit, Sabah Issue Viewed *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 35

Singapore

Minister Cautions Clinton on Democracy Push *[Singapore Radio]* 36
Chinese Paper Disappointed With Miyazawa Visit *[KYODO]* 36

Cambodia

KR Reportedly Continues To Violate Truce *[SPK]* 36
14 Jan Military Meeting Atmosphere 'Tense' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
    NADK General Addresses Meeting *[Radio VGNUFC]* 37
SRV, 'Puppets,' UNTAC Accused of Terrorism *[Radio VGNUFC]* 38
Call for Accord's Implementation Reiterated *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39
FUNCINPEC Office Attacker 'Not' CPP Member *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
KR Claims 'Puppets' Bombed UN House 15 Jan *[Radio VGNUFC]* 40
Release of Seven Political Detainess Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40
Sihanouk's Wife Leaves for Beijing 16 Jan *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40
Two Vietnamese Colonels Reportedly Killed *[Radio VGNUFC]* 41
Akashi Warns KR Over Election Registration *[SPK]* 41
Alatas Activities, Peace Prospects Viewed *[SPK]* 42
Ranariddh Marches Against Rights Violations *[AFP]* 42
Phnom Penh 'Forcibly' Conscripting Soldiers *[AFP]* 42
5 Apr Date for Presidential Election Proposed *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 20 Jan]* 43
    Hor Namhong on Proposed 5 Apr Date *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 44
KR Restricts 12 UN Peacekeepers in Pailin *[AFP]* 44
Interim Government Proposal Said Unrealistic *[Bangkok THE NATION 20 Jan]* 45
Minister Signs Accord on French Insurance Aid *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46

Indonesia

Press Views Clinton Inauguration, Policies *[Jakarta Radio]* 46
Alatas To Meet Sihanouk During 3-Country Trip *[ANTARA]* 47
UNTAC Chief Arrives for Talks 17 Jan *[Jakarta Radio]* 47
Alatas Comments on Interim Rule for Cambodia *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
House Leader Condemns 'U.S. Raid' on Iraq *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
Implementation of UN Gulf Resolutions Urged *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
Paper on Importance of Miyazawa Tour for ASEAN *[SUARA PEMBARUAN 13 Jan]* 48

Laos

President Greets Clinton on Inauguration *[KPL]* 49
Foreign Minister Greets New U.S. Counterpart *[KPL]* 49
'Massacre' of Vietnamese in Cambodia Condemned *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
Timber Agreement Signed With Taiwanese Company *[KPL]* 50

Philippines

Ramos Congratulates Clinton on Inauguration *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 21 Jan]* 50
Clinton East Asian Affairs Appointment Welcomed *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 21 Jan]* 51
Exports to U.S. May Be Cut Under Clinton *[Quezon City TV]* 52
Romulo Sees U.S. Economic Growth as Benefit *[BUSINESS WORLD 19 Jan]* 52
U.S. Urged to Retain Consular Office in Cebu *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY 19 Jan]* 52
Romulo: U.S. Military 'Should Remain Committed' *[BUSINESS WORLD 19 Jan]* 53
Senate Approves Amnesty Rules *[MANILA BULLETIN 21 Jan]* 53
Lack of Funds Prevents Sending Troops to Somalia *[Manila Radio]* 54
UN Pledges Assistance for Antipoverty Program *[MALAYA 18 Jan]* 54

Thailand

Papers Comment on Gulf Situation *[THAI RAT 19 Jan, etc.]* 54
Spokesman on Chuan's Expectations of Clinton *[BANGKOK POST 20 Jan]* 55
Paper Views Challenges Facing Clinton *[BANGKOK POST 20 Jan]* 55
Minister, Australian Visitor Discuss Cambodia *[Radio VOFA]* 56

Australian Minister Supports Cambodian Elections *[AFP]* 56
Foreign Minister Returns From Beijing 20 Jan *[Bangkok Radio]* 57
PRC Supports Cambodian Presidential Elections *[BANGKOK POST 20 Jan]* 57
Paper Views Prospects of Cambodian Election *[SIAM POST 20 Jan]* 58
Paper Praises 'Timely' ASEAN Statement *[THE NATION 18 Jan]* 58
Paper Views Miyazawa's Talks on Cambodia, Ties *[SIAM POST 18 Jan]* 59
Commander: No Burmese Troops in Ranong Province *[THE NATION 18 Jan]* 60
Burmese Border Reopens After 4-Day Closure *[BANGKOK POST 19 Jan]* 60
Burmese Foreign Minister Due To Sign Accord *[THE NATION 19 Jan]* 60
Economic Boom Attracts Illegal Foreign Workers *[THE NATION 18 Jan]* 61
    More on Illegal Burmese Workers *[THE NATION 19 Jan]* 62

Vietnam

Clinton Urged To Normalize Relations *[AFP]* 63
Do Muoi Addresses Fourth Party Plenum 64
    Part I *[Hanoi Radio]* 64
    Part II *[Hanoi Radio]* 65
    Part III *[Hanoi Radio]* 69
    Part IV *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Drug Trafficker Receives Life Sentence *[Hanoi TV]* 73
$4.6 Billion Invested Over Past 5 Years *[VNA]* 73
French Bank Opens Hanoi Branch *[VNA]* 73
Oxfam-Belgium To Establish Representative Office *[VNA]* 74

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Ministers Greet Clinton Inauguration *[Melbourne International]* 75
Government Backs Latest Strike on Iraq *[Melbourne International]* 75
Iraq Owes Large Debt for Prewar Wheat Shipments *[Melbourne International]* 75
Foreign Minister To Visit Thailand, Cambodia *[AFP]* 75
ABC To Train Indochinese Broadcasters *[Melbourne International]* 76

Papua New Guinea

Meeting With Solomon Islands on Ties Postponed *[Melbourne International]* 76
'Swift' Action Urged To End Bougainville Crisis *[Melbourne International]* 76
    Rebels Deny Killing Civilians *[Melbourne International]* 76

Japan

Congratulatory Messages Sent to Clinton, Gore

OW2101031993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa conveyed his "heartfelt congratulations" to newly inaugurated U.S. President Bill Clinton in a telegram Thursday, pledging close bilateral cooperation, government officials said.

Emperor Akihito also sent a congratulatory message to Clinton, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

In his congratulatory telegram, Miyazawa said, "We would like to cooperate closely in addressing issues of joint interest in order to promote peace and prosperity in the world."

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe sent a message to Vice President Al Gore saying Japan would like to join efforts with the United States "to strengthen the Japanese-American partnership."

Clinton was sworn in as 42nd President of the United States on Wednesday.

Further on Congratulations Messages

OW2001174493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1717 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday conveyed Japan's "heartfelt congratulations" to newly inaugurated U.S. President Bill Clinton and pledged to further develop bilateral ties.

Miyazawa also said in a statement that he hopes the Clinton administration will succeed in its domestic and foreign policy endeavors, obtaining the support of the American people.

Noting Clinton's inaugural pledge to strive for an "American reunion," the prime minister said Japan "welcomes and supports such efforts."

He vowed to build "a cooperative relationship befitting the new post-cold war era," in which he said Japan and the United States face the common tasks of securing global peace and prosperity.

In a separate statement, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe restated Japan's long-running stance that its relations with the United States form the "cornerstone" of its foreign policy.

Watanabe said that owing to the presence of unstable and dangerous factors in the post-cold war world, it is vital that the U.S. continues to play a leading role in world affairs.

He lauded the new administration's expressed determination to fulfill that commitment, in part by revitalizing the country's economy and strengthening its social fiber.

Business Hopes for U.S. Reforms Under Clinton

OW2001174893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1723 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japanese business leaders expressed hope Thursday that Bill Clinton will promote reforms in the United States as the nation's 42nd president.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said Clinton is fit to be U.S. President in the post-cold war era.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said he sensed Clinton's "enthusiasm" toward reforming the country when he attended the presidential inauguration in Washington.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he highly values Clinton's policy priority of putting the U.S. economy back on its feet.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), expressed hope that Clinton will work hard to reduce the U.S. federal deficit, even by raising the gasoline tax.

Hiraiwa also said Japan should respond positively to U.S. requests that it play more important international roles as a major economic power.

Nagano said Japan should do more for a successful settlement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by opening its rice market.

Opposition Hopes for Promotion of Relations

OW2101043393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's ruling and major opposition parties on Thursday expressed hope for improved friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan under the administration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) expressed the hope in separate statements issued after Clinton was sworn in on Wednesday as the 42nd U.S. President.

But the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) said in a statement that it does not expect Clinton will change Washington's defense policy aimed at imposing a greater military burden on Japan.

LDP's Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama said Japan is determined to cooperate with the new administration in building a new international order and new relations between the U.S. and Japan in the post-cold war era.

Sadao Yamahana, leader of Japan's largest opposition party SDP, said his party hoped to promote dialogue with the U.S. Government on strengthening United Nations functions and on Japan playing a greater international role.

Koshiro Ishida, head of Japan's second-largest opposition party Komeito, said the party hopes Clinton will play a leading role in maintaining a free world trade system and in developing international harmony among countries.

Keigo Ouchi, head of the DSP, said his party hopes the U.S. to boost mutual understanding with Japan on defense and bilateral trade problems.

'Prominent' Women View New U.S. First Lady

OW2001180393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1755 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—As Bill Clinton assumed the U.S. Presidency Wednesday [20 Jan], prominent Japanese women showed mixed reactions to his talented and outspoken wife, Hillary.

In male-dominated Japanese society, the new American first lady's visible presence apparently elated many, if not all, of the women.

While some Japanese women said they expect her to open the way for a better world for women, others recommended that the 45-year-old Clinton should keep a low profile.

Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama, the only female minister in the 20-member cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, had a positive opinion of Clinton's active involvement in politics.

"It is beyond the imagination of Japanese people, but it's up to the U.S. public to decide on," she said.

On the appointment of women to key government positions, Moriyama said, "You cannot say Japan is ready (for such possibilities), because I am the only one who is vociferously seeking it. We have to learn from the U.S."

By contrast, economic commentator Sumiko Takahara made a skeptical assessment of Clinton's potentially high profile at cabinet meetings.

"The first lady is not a post. Who will take responsibility if a person without political authority speaks out?" asked Takahara, who served as director general of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] in the first cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

"Allotment of cabinet portfolios to women legislators has its limits, so we should think more about the selection (of women ministers) from the private sector," she said.

Takahara became the first woman cabinet minister from the private sector since the end of World War II when she took the EPA post in 1989. She was dropped from her post in a 1990 cabinet shakeup, along with Moriyama, who had served as chief cabinet secretary in the same cabinet.

Tomiko Okazaki, a House of Representatives member from the No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, called Hillary Clinton "a symbol of the changing women" and expressed a desire to strengthen women's clout in her party.

"Hillary knows her own position well. But she is viewed as a symbol of the changing women, and her remarks and actions will naturally be of social influence," Okazaki said. "I hope to promote women's movement and open the Social Democratic Party further (to women)."

Miyazawa Backs U.S. Air Strike on Iraq

OW1801012593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0118 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, Jan. 18 Kyodo—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa threw support Monday behind a fresh overnight U.S. air strike on Iraq.

Miyazawa said in a brief statement hours before leaving for Tokyo after a two-day visit to Brunei winding up an eight-day Asian tour that he regrets Iraq's repeated violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions despite the council's repeated warnings.

"We understand and support the U.S. action and strongly urge Iraq to observe the Security Council resolutions," he added.

In Marbella, Spain, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe voiced support for the second U.S. raid in five days, which targeted a nuclear facility near Baghdad.

Watanabe, on an official visit to Spain, said the U.S. was "unwillingly compelled" to take the action "as Iraq does not comply with repeated Security Council resolutions."

Japan understands and supports the action, he said, adding that Iraq should comply with the resolutions and cooperate for the maintenance of world peace.

Foreign Ministry sources in Tokyo said the U.S. Government had informed the Japanese Government of the attack in advance.

The sources ruled out the danger of nuclear contamination from the raid, saying the U.S. Government informed Japan that it had confirmed beforehand that there would be no nuclear materials in the facility when the raid took place.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said in Tokyo that the U.S. informally contacted Japan about the raid on Sunday evening Japan time, and gave official notification early Monday.

Kono was speaking to reporters after attending a special board meeting of the Japanese Government's Security

Council convened to discuss the second U.S. military strike against Iraq in five days.

Asked whether Japan would offer financial support for the attacks, Kono replied that "support is different from assistance."

Spokesman: Iraq Unlikely To Attack Neighbors

OW1901043993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 Kyodo - Chief Government Spokesman and Acting Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Tuesday he expects tension over Iraq to continue but it is unlikely that Iraq will turn its military on neighboring countries.

"There is little possibility that the threat posed by Iraq's military will develop into a (conflict) with neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf," Kono told a regularly scheduled cabinet meeting.

Kono cited limits to Iraq's military power as a check on its aggression in the region.

Kono told the cabinet that Japan supports a series of raids on Iraq by the United States, Britain and France because Japan understands the attacks as being aimed at securing Iraq's compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The chief cabinet secretary is acting as foreign minister while Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is in Europe.

Statement Supports 18 Jan Attack on Iraq

OW1901073593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday announced its support for the third U.S.-led allied attack on Iraq in a week and called on Baghdad to "heed the collective will of the international community...faithfully and immediately."

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued after Monday's [18 January] daylight air strike on southern Iraq by 75 U.S., British, and French airplanes, said Japan "supports the measure."

Japan, it said, "understands that the recent military action was taken...in order to make Iraq abide by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions" related to its Gulf war ceasefire obligations.

The statement, citing Iraq's "hostile actions," including the deployment of missiles in no-fly zones, censured Baghdad for "still maintaining a defiant attitude toward the international community."

Earlier in the day, chief government spokesman Yohei Kono told the cabinet that Japan supports the punitive action against Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition forces.

Kono, acting as foreign minister while Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is in Europe, told reporters that tension over Iraq is expected to continue.

But he said there is little possibility of the situation escalating to the extent that countries neighboring Iraq would be drawn into a conflict.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa denied that Japan is exercising a double-standard by supporting military action against Iraq while not advocating enforcement of other nations' noncompliance with UN resolutions.

"The Japanese Government's position about the necessity to abide by UN resolutions applies uniformly," Hanabusa told a gathering of foreign correspondents.

"We are not applying any double-standard," he said.

Queried about the Japanese stance on Israel's noncompliance with UN resolutions, the spokesman said Tokyo has duly made its disapproval known to the Jewish state.

But Hanabusa suggested no comparison can be made with the case of Iraq, as the UN has not authorized any enforcement action against Israel.

"Is there any UN resolution approving the bombing of Israel," he asked rhetorically.

MITI on Fostering of U.S. Competitiveness

OW2101075593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0744 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan wants to cooperate in strengthening the competitiveness of American industry under U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration, the vice trade minister said Thursday.

Yuji Tanahashi of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI) told a news conference, "Cutting the budget deficit is naturally a top priority of the new administration's tasks. We will cooperate in as many fields as possible to foster American industries with less competitiveness."

Asked about a perceived tougher U.S. stance toward Japan on trade issues, including retaliation against unfair trade practices under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Law, Tanahashi said he is surprised at U.S. claims that the fault lies with Japan. He called for more understanding of results already achieved through bilateral cooperation.

Tanahashi Pessimistic Regarding 19 Jan TNC

OW1801074193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Japan's vice trade minister expressed on Monday his pessimistic view that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks is unlikely to make great headway at Tuesday's meeting of its steering body.

Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Yuji Tanahashi said at a press conference, "With the change of the U.S. Administration close at hand, it would be difficult to make progress at Tuesday's TNC (Trade Negotiations Committee)."

Tanahashi disclosed that his ministry called off dispatching Noburu Hatakeyama, vice minister for international affairs, who had been scheduled to attend the committee meeting.

He expressed his hope, however, that the trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) may resume promptly after Wednesday's inauguration of the U.S. new administration.

Tanahashi referred to a report that the United States and the European Community (EC) have made considerable progress in their negotiations both on agriculture and market access.

"The U.S. and EC have reportedly come to a stage for a political decision," he said.

Kono Reserves Comment on U.S. Trade Ties

OW2001092793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono reserved comment Wednesday on U.S. Trade Representative-designate Mickey Kantor's indication he will take an aggressive approach to bilateral trade issues.

The chief government spokesman said it is too early to predict the trade policies of incoming U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"This is a preliminary discussion by new members of the Clinton cabinet. We would like to confirm their stance," Kono told a regularly scheduled press conference.

Kono was commenting on Kantor's remarks at a Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday that the Clinton administration will aggressively employ U.S. trade law if trading partners violate agreements.

Under the "Super 301" section of the 1974 U.S. Trade Law, the United States can unilaterally retaliate with sanctions against countries deemed to engage in unfair trade practices.

Kantor told the hearing that Japan's trade surplus of over 40 billion dollars will be "high on our agenda with Japan."

He also cited Tokyo's compliance with a semiconductor agreement and Japan's voluntary restraints on auto exports as priorities in trade relations.

Japan agreed in 1991 to help increase the share of foreign-made microchips in its market to 20 percent by the end of 1992.

Official data show that foreign-manufactured semiconductors accounted for about 16 percent of the Japanese market in the second and third quarters last year.

Trade Minister Mori Responds to EC Request

OW1501024693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Brussels, Jan. 14 KYODO—European Community (EC) President Jacques Delors urged Japan Thursday to reduce its trade surplus with the EC, Japanese diplomats said.

The comment was made at his meeting with five Japanese ministers, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, the diplomats said.

Japan is estimated to have had a record high 32 billion dollar trade surplus with the 12-nation trading bloc last year.

The EC chief was quoted as warning the Japanese ministers that such a huge trade imbalance could become a political issue among the EC nations, and asked that Japan import more goods from the EC.

Responding to the complaint, Mori said, "generally speaking, Japan-EC relations are expanding in a constructive direction, particularly in bilateral industrial cooperation. The issue should be resolved in such a positive context."

Mori and the other Japanese ministers are in Brussels to attend a ministerial meeting with the EC, which is to be held at the headquarters of the EC commission on Friday.

Accord Reached With EC on Competition Seminar

OW1501134993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 15 KYODO—The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) announced Friday that Japan and the European Community have agreed to hold a seminar on fair competition legislation to deepen mutual understanding on each other's antimonopoly policies.

The accord was reached at a ministerial meeting held in Brussels Friday between Japan and the 12-nation trading bloc, the commission said.

The Japanese delegation to the meeting was led by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, and the EC side by EC Commissioner for External Economic Affairs Leon Brittan.

The seminar will be held in Tokyo this fall and will be attended by senior government officials, academics, and representatives of consumer organizations, the commission said.

The EC is to use the opportunity to explain the merits of this month's market integration, while Japan will focus on topics like implementation of the country's antimonopoly law and foreign access to the Japanese market, it said.

Yeltsin 'Prepared To Visit' Tokyo Before G-7

OW1801235393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2317 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 19 KYODO—President Boris Yeltsin said Monday he is prepared to visit Japan before the summit meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in Tokyo in July if certain conditions are met.

Responding to questions by reporters during a tour of the Moscow subway, Yeltsin said, "If the Japanese do not make stiff demands concerning the islands, it will make sense to go to Japan."

Yeltsin was scheduled to visit Japan in mid-September last year but he abruptly canceled the trip.

He cited domestic difficulties when informing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of the cancellation but later suggested that Japan's inflexibility on a territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido was preventing the visit.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe urged his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev in a meeting in Paris on January 13 to visit Japan at the earliest opportunity to pave the way for Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo, but they failed to fix a date for Kozyrev's visit to Japan.

Tokyo, Moscow Open Two-Day Trade Conference

OW1901052393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan and Russia opened a two-day conference in Tokyo on Tuesday to discuss ways of expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the Foreign Ministry said.

Topics to be covered at the conference, the first governmental meeting on trade between the two countries, will include the current state of bilateral trade and Japanese aid to Russia, including loans through the Export-Import Bank of Japan, ministry officials said.

Russia is represented at the conference by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of External Economic Relations, and its trade representative's office in Japan.

Japan is represented by officials of the Foreign Ministry, the International Trade and Industry Ministry, and the Finance Ministry.

Trade Talks End 'Inconclusively'

OW2001131693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Russia has asked Japan to invest more in the country, help utilize Russian military technology for industrial use and boost its trade insurance with Russian companies, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The two countries ended two days of bilateral trade and economic talks in Tokyo on Wednesday, the first meeting between the two countries since the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The official said the talks ended inconclusively.

Topics discussed included obstacles to expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including Russia's delays in payments and its accumulated debts. The official said neither country agreed on satisfactory remedies.

He said Japan made clear it is willing to continue offering technical and intellectual assistance.

But he said Japan stressed there is a need for Russia to improve its legal system and make clear who is in charge of external economic relations if bilateral trade is to expand and Japan is to boost its investment in Russia.

The Japanese delegation also pointed out that Russia has not used all the trade insurance that Japan has offered, he said.

Russia also disclosed its wish to host a seminar jointly with representatives of Japanese industry to examine bilateral cooperation in converting military companies for civilian purposes.

Japan also expressed concern about Russia's more active arms exports to the Third World, while conveying its willingness to cooperate in improving Moscow's management system of arms trade, the official said.

Delegates included Mikhail Fradkov, Russian deputy minister for foreign economic relations, and Koichiro Matsuura, Japan's deputy foreign minister.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Musa Pays Visit

Calls on Israel To Compromise

OW2001090793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Wednesday Egypt recently called on Israel to compromise on the issue of 415 expelled Palestinians within three weeks in order to salvage the Middle East peace talks, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said Musa, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a four- day visit, made the revelation in talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Musa was quoted as saying he conveyed a concrete proposal from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, including the suggested time frame for a compromise solution, during talks on Sunday in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Officials said they were briefed on some specifics of the Egyptian proposal, but declined to reveal details.

They said the Egyptian initiative appeared to be aimed at ensuring that multilateral working-level talks on economic development, the first of their kind in the 15-month-old Middle East peace process, go ahead as scheduled on February 9 in Rome.

Palestinian representatives have said their delegation will not participate in the peace process until the deportation issue is resolved.

The expelled Palestinians, many of them Islamic fundamentalists, have been stranded since December 17 in a makeshift camp in no-man's land in southern Lebanon between Israeli and Lebanese troops.

Officials said Musa reiterated to Watanabe his recent warning that a large segment of public opinion in the Middle East sees "a certain double standard" in the West's treatment of Israel and Iraq.

Arabs have voiced irritation over the U.S.-led coalition's resumption of military action against Iraq to force it to comply with United Nations resolutions, while the West has not compelled Israel to obey UN resolutions, including a call to allow the deportees to return home.

Musa said Egypt nevertheless considers Iraq's defiance of UN resolutions "foolish and adventuristic," officials said.

His remarks follow Monday's declaration by the Cairo-based Arab League that perceptions of UN bias in Middle Eastern affairs could lead to "a loss of faith in the credibility of international law and to incidents of adverse reaction in the Arab and Islamic world."

Officials said Musa expressed concern that Iran was attempting to export its Islamic fundamentalist revolution beyond its borders.

Cairo has accused Tehran of financing, arming and training Muslim militants whose declared aim is to create an Iranian-style theocracy in Egypt. Iran has in turn accused the Egyptian Government of suppressing Islamic movements.

Almost 80 people have been killed in Egypt since last March in clashes and acts of violence involving Muslim activists.

Urges Even-Handed UN Approach

OW2001113193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa called for an even-handed U.N. approach in dealing with trouble spots in different areas of the world at a Wednesday press conference in Tokyo.

"A different treatment for different regions in the world does not go well with the creation of a new international order," Musa said, hinting at UN discrimination against Arab countries.

Musa, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a four-day visit, said the Muslim world feels "a lot of frustration" over the UN handling of the war in former Yugoslavia and urged a "more vigorous" approach to protect Muslim Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He reiterated his recent warning that prevailing public opinion in the Arab countries sees "a double standard" in the West's dealings with defiance of UN resolutions by Iraq and Israel.

Arabs have voiced irritation over the U.S.-led coalition's recent military strikes against Iraq to force it to comply with UN resolutions, while the West has not compelled Israel to obey UN resolutions, including a demand to allow Palestinian deportees to return home.

Musa said Iraq has to respect UN resolutions but its defiance "does not necessarily mean a call for use of force."

He urged an end to military action in Iraq as soon as possible, while preserving the integrity of Iraqi territory and the unity and safety of its people.

Musa said Israel should be more forthcoming in making concessions on the 415 Palestinians it deported to south Lebanon if it wishes to prevent Middle East peace talks being paralyzed.

He said the question of the deportees has adversely affected the peace process and confidence-building between the parties concerned.

During a one-day mission to Israel last Sunday to persuade Jerusalem to obey a UN demand to return the deportees "the Israelis did not have their minds close to what I had to say," Musa said.

He added, however, that Cairo hopes to reach a solution "in a short time" before the next round of talks expected at the beginning of February.

In talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe earlier in the day, Musa said Cairo has proposed to Israel a three-week time frame to find a solution to the expelled Palestinians issue.

Musa said Japan could help the peace process "by supporting the rights of the Palestinians and a just solution of land." [sentence as received]

Expresses Disapproval of Iraq Raids

OW2101052893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahammad Musa on Thursday expressed disapproval of air raids against Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition, Japanese officials said.

In a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Musa was quoted as saying that the Arab people are skeptical of the raids, conducted by the United States, Britain, and France.

The raids, on missile and radar sites within an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq and a factory on the outskirts of Baghdad, were carried out from Sunday through Tuesday for Iraq's defiance of U.N. resolutions.

Musa is on a four-day visit to Japan ending Friday.

Miyazawa Returns Home After ASEAN Tour

OW1801090193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0852 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa returned home on Monday after an eight-day tour of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei, where he discussed political, economic and regional security relations with government leaders.

It was Miyazawa's first visit to any of the countries—all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with the Philippines and Singapore—since he became prime minister in November 1991.

On Saturday in Bangkok, he delivered a key policy speech spelling out Japan's security and other major policies toward Southeast Asia.

Miyazawa proposed holding a meeting of experts in Tokyo this autumn to help reconstruct and develop Indochina.

Throughout the tour Miyazawa reiterated that Japan would never become a military power again.

Watanabe's Call for Constitution Debate Viewed

OW1801093093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono on Monday dismissed Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's call for a debate on revising Japan's war-renouncing Constitution as an expression of Watanabe's personal opinion.

"I do not regard (the comment) as an official statement of the deputy prime minister," Kono told a news conference. Watanabe is also deputy premier.

Kono declined further comment prior to personally confirming with Watanabe his proposal for intensified debate on revising the Constitution to permit Japan to join in collective security operations.

Japan's constitution bans the use of force to resolve international disputes.

Watanabe made the remark to Japanese reporters in Spain at the close of an eight-day European tour.

The call for debate appeared to run counter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's statement Sunday that such discussion is "dangerous" if it is used as a "political banner" for achieving other goals.

Miyazawa also said Sunday in Brunei that he is opposed to revising the Constitution.

Some political commentators say discussion on revising the Constitution is being used as a vehicle for building momentum toward possible regrouping of alliances among existing political parties.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Policy Affairs Research Council, has called for establishment of a panel of the LDP and opposition parties to discuss constitutional issues.

Papers Differ on Miyazawa Constitution Remark

OW1901041893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Two Japanese dailies on Tuesday chided Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for terming as "dangerous" moves to create a parliamentary body to review Japan's war-renouncing Constitution, while another newspaper supported Miyazawa's stand.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN and the SANKEI SHIMBUN called on the prime minister to "overcome stereotyped notions" about revising the nation's fundamental law and called for a parliamentary debate on the Constitution.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN said it was natural for the prime minister to check calls for revision of the Constitution.

On Sunday, Miyazawa said he opposed revision of the Constitution and called it dangerous for the constitutional debate to be turned into "a political banner" without careful consideration of what a changes would be necessary.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN said the prime minister's comments were "completely off the mark." Previous constitutional arguments have been that those opposed to changing the Constitution are "defending the cause of peace" while those seeking revisions are "dangerous," it said.

"More serious discussions based on reality of the world are now necessary," the YOMIURI said.

The mass circulation daily said Japan should increase its cooperation with the international community in the post-cold war world to ensure world peace and stability, and in the constitutional debate emphasis should be placed on Japan's international responsibilities.

Discussions should never be considered from the dichotomy between love of peace and fear of retrogression to the situation that existed in Japan before the end of the World War II, the YOMIURI said.

The YOMIURI said that the debate not be limited to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel on constitutional reform, but opened to the Diet. [sentence as received]

The SANKEI SHIMBUN said the prime minister's remarks were a splash of cold water on the LDP position of seeking an independent constitutional system based upon a new national consciousness rooted in the attitude that it is not taboo for the citizens to discuss revision of the Constitution.

"In this time when Japan is groping for what kind of nation it should become in international society, it is necessary to say the prime minister's passive attitude is extremely regrettable," the conservative newspaper said.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN expressed concern over growing calls for debates on constitutional revision.

The newspaper said it is natural for the prime minister to have checked calls for constitutional revision with his remark that such talk is not a "frivolous" thing when it is linked to realignments in the political world.

The MAINICHI said Japan must seek to make wide-ranging international contributions given life by the ideology of the war-renouncing Constitution. Diplomatic efforts should be exhausted before urging revision of the Constitution, the MAINICHI editorial said.

Revision of Peace Constitution Said Premature

OW2101123393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda on Thursday said it would be premature to raise the question of constitutional revision as an immediate political issue.

"Japan in the last 40 or so years has repented of its past and has recreated itself on the basis of a new national ideology. And, I think this is quite an achievement," Gotoda said.

In saying that a debate on constitutional revisions is premature, Gotoda was opposing Liberal Democratic Party policy chief Hiroshi Mitsuzuka and suggested it should be discussed first within each of the political parties. Mitsuzuka has called for the establishment of a nonpartisan parliamentary panel to discuss constitutional revision.

Members of the ruling LDP, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, have argued recently that the Constitution has to be revised to permit Japan to expand its international peacekeeping activities. Japanese troops are currently contributing to peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia, but only after a controversial battle in the Diet last spring over the legality of dispatching Japan's Self-Defense Forces overseas. Under the U.N. Peace Cooperation Law, Japan's peacekeeping operations are limited to noncombat roles.

Miyazawa Warns of Public Distrust in Politics

OW2001035893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday urged his ruling party colleagues to deepen their awareness regarding public distrust in politics in the wake of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

Miyazawa, speaking at an annual convention of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said, "I cannot help feeling deep anxieties at the unprecedented indignant distrust in politics among the public."

"Our party must place priority on revamping itself if it is to restore public trust in politics and implement political reforms," said Miyazawa, who also serves as LDP president.

He pledged to press ahead with proposals to secure institutional transparency in the flow of political funds from business into the coffers of politicians.

Politicians have to refrain from spending money lavishly in the process of their campaign activities in order to cultivate the goodwill of voters, he said.

The prime minister sounded ready to press ahead with a proposal to introduce a single-seat constituency system for the House of Representatives election, when he said the party should strive to establish an election system in which voters would cast ballots to candidates from different parties in view of their policy differences.

Opposition parties have been objecting to the proposal, saying it would only benefit the ruling party by reducing the chances of opposition legislators winning parliamentary seats under the current multiseat constituency election system.

The LDP convention wae timed to coincide with Friday's convening of the 150-day ordinary session of the Diet.

Nakayama Wants More Peacekeeping Missions

OW2101090993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Defense Agency Chief Toshio Nakayama said Thursday Japan should study the possibility of sending Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to U.N. peacekeeping military operations after the SDF's peacekeeping mission in Cambodia ends. Nakayama, director general of the agency, made the remark in a press conference at the Air Self-Defense Force's Hyakuri Base in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Nakayama said, "I think (the agency) should consider how to deal with (U.N. peacekeeping forces) as (SDF) currently has valuable experience in Cambodia."

A law passed last June stipulates that SDF personnel can join U.N. peacekeeping operations in a noncombat capacity, such as construction, if all sides in a war-torn country agree on a ceasefire and they accept the SDF presence. But the law includes freeze clauses on SDF participation in U.N. missions which might involve military actions. To lift the clauses, new legislation is required.

Six-hundred ground Self-Defense Force engineering troops now are rebuilding roads in southern Cambodia as part of U.N. peacekeeping operations there. Nakayama said Japan is being cautious about the possibility of sending the SDF to an upcoming peacekeeping operation in Mozambique because of the law's restrictions on military action in U.N. missions.

Nakayama said he wants to visit the United States as early as late April or early May to meet with defense officials in the new administration of President Bill Clinton. He said Japan should hold talks with the United States on security policies.

Nakayama also discussed Japan's basic defense policies and said the Defense Agency wants to review the 1976 Basic Defense Policy Outline and compile it on a working level by fiscal year 1994, which ends in March 1995.

The outline, drafted by the cabinet of Former Prime Minister Takeo Miki, is for a strictly nonaggressive national security force with a minimum military power, which would be capable of holding off invading enemies along Japan's coastlines. Ruling and opposition parties have demanded that the defense policy be revised to better suit the post-cold war era.

Role in Cambodia Said Gaining Understanding

OW1901100493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan's participation in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia has been increasingly gaining understanding both at home and abroad, a senior government official in charge of Japan's peacekeeping efforts said Tuesday.

An increasing number of Japanese people have been shaping "an accurate image" of the role of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel sent to Cambodia, said Shunji Yanai, executive secretary general of the international peace cooperation headquarters.

When the Diet was deliberating the bill that allowed Japanese troops to be sent abroad on United Nations peacekeeping missions, the Japanese public misunderstood what role Japanese peacekeepers would have, he said in a press luncheon at the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan.

The reactions of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states are, in general, rather favorable, while those of countries outside ASEAN countries are "quite favorable," he said.

Yanai, former director general of the Foreign Ministry's Treaties Bureau, assumed his current post after serving on a government task force on Japan's peacekeeping efforts abroad last August.

Last June, the Diet enacted the United Nations Peace Cooperation Law, which enables up to 2,000 personnel, mainly from the SDF, to join UN peacekeeping units involved in logistics, medical aid and other noncombat duties.

More hazardous operations—such as separating warring armies during ceasefires—requires prior Diet approval and even then could not be undertaken without the passage of separate legislation.

The government approved a plan last September to send more than 1,800 military and civilian personnel to Cambodia as peacekeepers. A 600-member engineering corps has been charged with road and bridge repair in the war-torn country.

Yanai also predicted the UNTAC will continue to remain in Cambodia, although in a reduced form, after the scheduled finish of the UN mission in the country around August, because the military situation in the country "would continue to be fragile."

But he declined to comment on whether Japanese peacekeepers would also stay there along with other UN peacekeepers, saying it depends on what kind of mission the UNTAC will be.

The UN-negotiated peace accord signed in Paris in October 1991 states that UNTAC will end its mission after the enactment of a new Cambodian constitution and the establishment of a new government three months after a general election expected in April or May.

On the possibilities of Japan playing a greater role for international peacekeeping efforts, Yanai kept his sights low.

"We still need to gain a lot more experience...I think we can still make more contributions to international efforts for peacekeeping and humanitarian relief," Yanai said.

"So we have to be patient since patience is the very spirit of the peacekeeping operations," he said.

Yanai hinted Japan has no intention to automatically pull out its personnel from Cambodia just because some of its peacekeepers were killed.

He said such a case would constitute a violation of the ceasefire agreement but would not mean the breakdown of the pact.

Watanabe: Some Resist Larger Role for Tokyo

OW2101103693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's quest for a larger say in international political affairs is being met with resistance abroad, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Thursday.

"There are some countries that do not want to see Japan acquire a stronger voice in political affairs," Watanabe told a gathering of reporters, essayists, and columnists.

"It's not strange...considering that Japan is already moving the world economically," he said, declining to specify which countries he was referring to.

Watanabe made the remarks while calling for a revised interpretation of the Japanese Constitution to allow the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to fully participate in United Nations peacekeeping activities abroad.

He reiterated his recent suggestion that the SDF be equipped with more long-range transport aircraft to allow Japan to rapidly respond to UN requests for materials and personnel.

Japan has so far not acquired such equipment in light of concerns by Asian neighbors over increases in Tokyo's power projection capability.

Watanabe downplayed such anxieties, stressing that the lightly-armed SDF personnel he has in mind would only be sent after requests from the UN.

"It is not as if Japan will be sending tanks and bombers overseas," he said.

Watanabe expressed irritation at views he heard during his recent trip to Europe that Japan is not doing as much as it can to support Russian President Boris Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Comparisons with Germany's large-scale contributions are without merit, considering that Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union during World War II, while Japan was a victim of Soviet aggression, he said.

He criticized Russia for having apologized to the countries it victimized in Europe, while not saying a word of remorse to Japan for having broken a treaty of neutrality, seizing Japanese territory, and taking hundreds of thousands of Japanese prisoners for forced labor in inhumane conditions.

The foreign minister said four northern islands still under Russian occupation must be promised back to Japan before Tokyo can extend full-scale economic assistance to Moscow.

SDPJ Chairman-Elect Views Party Reform

OW1701064493

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 10 January broadcasts a live, 60-minute roundtable discussion entitled: "How Should the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] Be Reformed?—Questions to SDPJ Chairman-Elect Sadao Yamahana." Taking part in the roundtable are SDPJ Secretary General Sadao Yamahana, who will be appointed as new chairman at the SDPJ Central Executive Committee meeting scheduled for 19 January; Akira Yamagishi, chairman of Rengo [the Japanese Trade Union Confederation]; Michiko Shimamori, chief editor of the journal "KOKOKU-HIHYO"; and Jiro Yamaguchi, assistant professor at Hokkaido University. The program is moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto.

The discussion begins with Yamamoto asking the participants where the SDPJ's problems lie. Rengo Chairman Yamagishi criticizes the SDPJ for "clinging to its own principles, being incapable of changing itself according to changes created in a new era, and opposing every government policy." Yamagishi says: "The SDPJ's problems lie in the fact that the party principles are not consistent with state policies." Shimamori and Yamaguchi note the need for the SDPJ to reform itself. In response, Yamahana says: "The SDPJ is resolved to reform itself in the new post-cold war era. During my term as chairman, I hope to transform the SDPJ into a party that is capable of taking over power from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]." He continues: "The SDPJ will be reborn and make an all-out effort to change the current unhealthy politics into healthy politics."

The discussion moves toward Yamahana's unanimous election as new chairman, after his candidacy was uncontested. Asked what he thinks of the election, Rengo Chairman Yamagishi says: "I think the party, on its own volition, abandoned an opportunity to make itself appealing to the public. I evaluate the personality and abilities of Mr. Yamahana highly, but since there are two main streams within the SDPJ—one group urges party reform in order to take the reins of government, and the other group advocates the idea that the SDPJ should remain an opposition group rather than review its basic policies—and since their policies are slightly different, the representaitves of each group should have run in the election." Shimamori agrees with Yamagishi, while Yamaguchi points out some problems in the system of electing the SDPJ chairman. After hearing other participants' criticisms, Yamahana says: "When I declared my candidacy, I also announced my pledges. Then I asked whoever wanted to run for the SDPJ chairmanship to indicate their pledges so that people and party members could make their judgment on the pledges. Unfortunately, my candidacy was uncontested. This is what happened, and it is useless to discuss the past. We had better discuss what the SDPJ should do in the future."

Yamahana continues, saying: "I agree with Mr. Yamagishi that there is more than one stream in the party. The general public's understanding is that there are two main streams in the SDPJ, the right and left wings. The SDPJ is fully aware that its policies were affected by ideas created by the confrontation between the two poles during the cold war structure. I think the current situation requires us to have pluralistic views. I am confident party members will make an effort to fulfill this request, because they all feel a sense of crisis."

Yamamoto next brings up the issue of reviewing the SDPJ's basic policies, and asks Yamagishi what he thinks of the SDPJ policy toward the Self-Defense Forces [SDF]. Noting that the policy was worked out during the cold war, Yamagishi says: "The policy drastically needs to be reviewed. I think the SDPJ should draw up defense and security policies that enable Japan to contribute to the international community and to assume its international responsibilities." He continues: "Concerning the existence of the SDF, Mr. Yamahana has said his party will shelve the issue concerning its constitutionality, on the grounds that even the Supreme Court has not made a decision. Such an attitude is unacceptable. The party should profoundly discuss this issue and clearly indicate that the SDF is constitutional or unconstitutional, even though this would be difficult for the SDPJ."

In connection with this issue, Yamamoto asks Yamahana to brief him on the party's "soken" [creation of a new constitution] concept. Yamahana explains the concept was originally proposed by scholars, saying: "We thought this concept could be applied to politics. It proposes a shift from a mere interpretation of the Constitution to the creation of a new constitution and for applying the ideas of the Constitution to politics in a positive and creative manner." Yamahana then begins discussing the SDF issue. He says: "In light of Article 9 of the Constitution, we cannot say the existence of the SDF is constitutional because it is one of the major military forces in the world. Our position is that we will accept everything that exists in reality. Based on this position, we will discuss the SDF issue." He continues: "We have not shelved this issue. We just hope to establish a firm opinion about this issue within the party."

Asked what he thinks of the "soken" idea, Rengo Chairman Yamagishi says: "The idea is one view, and I would not deny this. Because almost 50 years have passed since the Constitution was established and because the world has undergone many changes, the opinion that the Constitution should not be amended is somewhat inflexible, I think. We should not regard the issue of reviewing the Constitution as taboo. There are many superb points in the Constitution, and they should be left untouched. I hope discussions will be made regarding whether or not the Constitution should be amended while the current situation is taken into account."

Shimamori also reveals her opinion on the "soken" idea, criticizing the SDPJ for altering its opinions and behavior according to realities. After hearing Shimamori's opinion, Yamahana notes the need for his party to appreciate realities by referring to specific examples. Asked by Shimamori to clearly indicate the SDPJ's policies, Yamahana says that the party intends to present them through Diet deliberations.

Yamagishi again brings up the issue of the SDPJ's placing too much emphasis on the unconstitutionality of the SDF. Yamahana says: "I presume that many people do not know about the SDF's secret documents. As far as I know, the number of secret and top secret documents owned by the SDF amounts to 1.85 million. Those secrets have never been revealed to Diet members and scholars. As this is the situation, we cannot say the SDF is constitutional in view of the law. However, concerning the issue of how Japan should contribute to international peacekeeping operations, we would like to make proposals in a positive manner."

Yamamoto next asks the participants to discuss issues connected with the SDPJ constitution. Yamagishi says: "In order to transform the SDPJ into a party capable of taking the reins of government, it should oust party members who oppose the idea of reforming the SDPJ. Without such a strong resolution, the party will not be able to solve problems connected with its constitution." Yamahana responds by saying: "At the Central Executive Committee meeting held in December, party members unanimously agreed that the SDPJ would reform not only itself but also Japanese politics. Based on this agreement, I will make efforts to achieve these goals." Shimamori notes the need for the SDPJ to discuss political issues with words the general public can understand. Otherwise, the party will lose supporters because its policies lack clarity, she says. Yamahana says: "I agree with Ms. Shimamori. Although we are making efforts, they seem to be insufficient." Assistant Professor Yamaguchi points out that as long as the SDPJ is controlled by party Diet members who are satisfied with the status quo, reform of the SDPJ is unlikely. He also notes that the party needs to discuss various problems, including the issue of whether the SDPJ should be transformed into a governing party or whether it should remain an opposition party. Commenting on Yamaguchi's opinions, Yamahana says: "I am aware that we are expected to implement discussion-oriented politics within the party and in the Diet."

Yamagishi says that although leading labor union members tend to become SDPJ Diet members after they have retired from their companies, this trend is changing. He says: "Some labor union members ask me to run for Diet membership, but I will never do so. My opinion is that it is not desirable for former labor union leaders to enter the political world. People who want to be parliamentarians should be people who have accumulated experience as assemblymen of local governments, as this is the age of local governments." He predicts that in the future, no labor union members will enter the political world. Yamahana responds by saying: "I believe the SDPJ has undergone many changes in its personnel structure.

While former SDPJ Chairman Takako Doi held the post, the number of female party members increased. I am also stressing the need to have more female members; having more younger members is also important. The shortage of such members is the SDPJ's weakest point." He continues: "What our party needs to do is to discuss various issues openly. By hearing our discussions, people will say the SDPJ's policies are acceptable or unacceptable. Through such candid discussions, we want to increase the number of our supporters." In response to the question of what kind of people the SDPJ urgently needs, Yamaguchi begins to refer to a specific case in which a junior SDPJ member was reprimanded because of his approval of the LDP's nine-plus 10-minus plan, and he merely says that the SDPJ needs to establish circumstances in which younger members can freely deliver their opinions. Yamahana says: "I am aware some younger members have the same opinion as Mr. Yamamoto," and notes the need to review the SDPJ's methodology for discussions.

Yamagishi recently said he would stop supporting the SDPJ if the party failed to implement party reform in the next six months. Asked whether what he said is his real intention, Yamagishi says: "Six months from now, elections for Tokyo assembly members will be conducted. The general election will also come around that time. I think these elections will not be races among existing political parties. They will be races between the existing parties and new political parties like the New Japan Party. To the general public, the existing parties appear to be conservative while new political forces appear to be reformist. Based on this view, people will cast their votes. Among opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party are trying to be part of the reformist forces. The SDPJ also needs to play an active role as reformists. To do so, the party will need to review its basic policies within the limited time. I think the deadline for the review will come six months from now." He continues: "My purpose is not to stop supporting the SDPJ. I made the remarks because I want the SDPJ to progress." In response, Yamahana says: "I accept Mr. Yamagishi's remarks as words of encouragement to make the SDPJ change. I will make efforts to come up to his expectations. On various occasions, we want to show the people that the SDPJ is not conservative but reformist. At the same time, we want to stress the need to change LDP-led politics." In conclusion, Yamahana says: "I am sure Japanese politics is moving toward the realignment of the political world. However, it is not acceptable for the realignment to lead to the establishment of another conservative party which merely complements the LDP. I want to unite all reformist political forces to form a party which is capable of taking over power from the LDP and of pursuing healthy politics. The SDPJ will do its best."

LDP Document Supports Reform, Rice Ban

OW1601090693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) vowed Saturday to push for political reform efforts and maintain Japan's virtual ban on rice imports.

In a draft action plan for 1993, the conservative party says it faces "the biggest crisis since the formation of the party" in 1955 because of a lingering wave of public distrust in politics following the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal that led to the downfall of political power broker Shin Kanemaru.

The LDP will adopt the action plan at the 56th party convention Wednesday, two days before the Diet convenes for a 150-day ordinary session, party officials said.

In order to restore public confidence, the document says, the LDP will urge for the introduction of single-seat constituencies instead of the present multi-seat ones in general elections for the House of Representatives, and for tightened controls on political funds.

But opposition parties strongly object to the single-seat system.

While acknowledging the need to successfully conclude the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the draft plan asserts that the LDP cannot accept the proposed conversion of all trade barriers, including Japan's rice import restrictions, into tariffs.

"On the opening up of the rice market, the party will hold to its basic policy of feeding the country with domestically produced rice and devote all energy to reflecting this policy at the Uruguay Round's negotiating tables on farm trade," it says.

Noting that "the nation has come to stop regarding discussions on constitutional amendment a taboo," the draft plan says the LDP will aim at the establishment of a new constitution.

Amendment of the Constitution has long been a focus of controversy between the LDP and opposition groups, particularly the Social Democratic Party which advocates defending the pacifist Constitution.

Article 9 of the Constitution stipulates that the Japanese people forever renounce war, and "the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes." It says, "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

With Self-Defense Forces troops participating in the United Nations' peacekeeping mission in war-ravaged Cambodia, the LDP vows in the document to provide the world body with financial and personnel contributions.

Hata Considers Running for LDP Presidency

OW1601054093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0515 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Tsutomu Hata, the leader of a splinter faction within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Saturday he is considering a run for the dominant party's presidency this fall to push ahead with political reform.

"We are not going to be bystanders. I cannot rule out the possibility of my giving a try (in the race) to realize highly ideal politics if and when everyone (outside his LDP group) takes a noncommittal attitude," he said in a television news program.

The post of the LDP president automatically brings with it prime ministership due to the conservative party's dominance in the Diet. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's two-year term of office as LDP president is due to run out in September.

On the review of the Constitution—a topic that is rapidly becoming a center of attention in the LDP, Hata said, "it is good to amend it if necessary."

While noting the need to maintain the current Constitution's pacifist principles, Hata said the nation should discuss how to contribute to the international community within its scope.

"We should ponder on how far Japan can make contributions in creating world peace within the realm of the Constitution," he said.

Earlier this week, the LDP said it will propose the creation of an inter-party panel to review the Constitution, whose "renunciation of war" clause has long been a focus of controversy.

LDP's policy board chairman, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, will unveil the proposal in an address in the Diet on January 25, officials said.

Article 9 stipulates "the Japanese people forever renounce war...and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

It says, "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

Hata bolted from the once-dominant LDP faction in December along with a group of politicians loyal to former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa in December as a result of an intense power struggle within the largest grouping in the ruling party.

The showdown between the Hata-Ozawa group and one headed by Keizo Obuchi, another former secretary general of the LDP, came on the heels of the party strongman Shin Kanemaru's departure from politics.

Kanemaru gave up his Diet seat in October due to an outpouring of public outrage against his receipt of an illicit 500 million yen political fund from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct express parcel delivery company at the center of a huge money-and-mobster scandal.

Akamatsu Agrees to Nomination for SDPJ Post

OW1801034093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—New lower house member Hirotaka Akamatsu agreed Monday to be nominated as secretary general of the main opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] at an extraordinary party convention to be held Tuesday.

Akamatsu, 44, accepted the offer of the party's No. 2 post from SDP Chairman-elect Sadao Yamahana, in a meeting with Yamahana on Monday morning.

Akamatsu, at present director of the party's Labor Bureau, had declined to give an immediate answer Sunday night in response to Yamahana's offer.

After the meeting with Yamahana, Akamatsu told reporters that he will strive for party reform when he takes over the post being vacated by Yamahana, whose candidacy for the top party post was unopposed January 6.

Yamahana will officially become the SDPJ's 12th chairman at Tuesday's convention.

Akamatsu, elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in February 1990 from the No. 6 constituency in Aichi Prefecture, will become the new secretary general at the convention.

He will be the first SDPJ secretary general born after the end of World War II.

Akamatsu, eldest son of the late SDP Vice Chairman Isamu Akamatsu, served as an Aichi prefectural assembly member for three terms from the age of 30.

Makoto Tanabe announced his sudden resignation as SDP chairman in December, citing the need for a generational change in leadership ahead of general elections expected this year.

Calls for More Flexibility

OW2001085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Social Democratic Party's new Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu said Wednesday the leading opposition party should stop acting as a stamp of disapproval for ruling Liberal Democratic Party policies and become more open to compromise.

Akamatsu said in an interview that the SDP [SDPJ, Social Democratic Party of Japan] should consider approving the national budget if the LDP incorporates some of its views in a compromise plan.

The SDP has never backed a budget proposed by the ruling party since the LDP was formed in 1955. The LDP has been in power since then.

New Diet member Akamatsu also said he is open to establishing contacts with the new LDP faction headed by former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata regarding realignment of political parties.

Hata has hinted that his group may eventually secede from the LDP in the hope of forming a rival conservative party.

Akamatsu said that the SDP and Hata faction differ widely in policies pertaining to the Constitution and defense, but they may share common ground on the need for political reform.

"We agree that the current state of politics is no good," he said. "We need to make a political structure with tension. We can still cooperate even if we don't agree on everything," he said.

Akamatsu, 44, became the youngest politican to occupy the SDP's No. 2 post at a party convention Tuesday after his predecessor Sadao Yamahana, 56, was approved as party chairman to replace Makoto Tanabe, 70. He was elected to the House of Representatives in the 1990 general election.

Tanabe announced he would step down in December, saying younger leadership is needed to boost the popularity of the leading opposition party.

The SDP is frequently criticized for stridently opposing LDP policies while failing to come up with viable alternatives.

Yamahana Vows Thorough Sagawa Scandal Probe

OW1901124493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana officially assumed the chairmanship of Japan's largest opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDPJ) Tuesday, vowing to press for a thorough investigation of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal.

Yamahana told a news conference that he will seek the resignation from parliament of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita over his involvement in the scandal at the 150-day Diet session that opens Friday.

Yamahana, the former secretary general and member of the SDPJ's center-left faction, and new SDPJ Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu were formally inaugurated at a special SDPJ convention.

Yamahana, 56, replaces Makoto Tanabe, 70, who resigned in late December amid criticism of his close ties to ruling Liberal Democratic Party boss Shin Kanemaru who resigned over the Sagawa scandal.

Akamatsu, 44, a member of the SDPJ's right-leaning "Seiken Koso Kenkyukai" (a study group on strategy for political power), regarded as the least demagogic of the SDPJ's groups, was tapped for the number two post in a bid to enhance the labor-oriented party's appeal to mainstream voters.

Yamahana and Akamatsu vowed at the news conference to revitalize the hidebound opposition party.

The SDPJ's crisis is a crisis for Japanese democracy, Yamahana said, promising to make the Socialist Party a viable alternative to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The SDPJ has never managed to get its hands on the reins of government since the LDP was formed in 1955, and is widely regarded by voters as a check on the ruling party, but lacking the competence to run the nation.

Other policy priorities at the upcoming Diet session are introduction of political reforms aimed at eliminating corruption, and protecting rice farmers, he said.

The SDPJ's two top posts were filled after Yamahana and Akamatsu stood unopposed at the convention held at party headquarters in central Tokyo.

Other top posts were decided in an election that ushered in a slightly younger leadership. Two women were among the five vice chairs and two deputy secretary generals, an increase of one from the outgoing lineup.

Akamatsu told a news conference he would seek a greater voice for younger politicians and women.

A first-term member of the House of Representatives, Akamatsu is the youngest secretary general in the history of the Socialist Party, which has a tradition of resorting to seniority when selecting leaders.

A total of 13 of the 32 central executive committee members, including International Affairs Director Kiyoshi Koiwai and Planning and Research Director Nobutaka Tsutsui, are first-term members of parliament.

The party is seeking to enhance its image in advance of general elections expected sometime this year.

It also faces an important Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election in June.

Yamahana told reporters that in light of the new era he would be open to discussion on all policies as well as the Constitution. There should be no taboos, he said, but did not elaborate on what new direction the party may take other than seeking more concrete policies to enforce peace and human rights.

He said the party would adhere to the spirit of the "peace" Constitution, which bans the use of force to resolve international conflicts.

Some members of the ruling party have been calling for debate on the Constitution's no-war clause.

Yamahana, the 12th chair of the SDPJ, will serve out the remainder of Tanabe's term which expires in December.

Threatens To Hold Up Budget Debate

OW2001115393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] Chairman Sadao Yamahana threatened Wednesday to hold up parliamentary debate on the fiscal 1993 budget bill unless the ruling party comes clean on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal.

Yamahana insisted there be no debate in the Diet without first clearing up ambiguities over "three issues" he said are at the center of parliamentary efforts to remove lingering suspicions.

"There are still three pieces of live charcoal to make a fire," he told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

The veteran legislator was inaugurated as the chief of the No. 1 opposition party at Tuesday's SDP convention.

The three issues, he said, are the joint demand of the opposition parties for testimony by five key figures in the scandal, questions about former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's testimony to the Diet on the affair, as well as suspicions about a memo allegedly written by Takeshita.

"I believe that parliamentary deliberations on the budget bill and these issues should be linked," he said. His remark came two days before the Diet starts a 150-day session, with debate on the budget bill one of the first orders of the day.

He said he will also consult with top opposition officials and those of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Thursday about the possibility of creating a special parliamentary committee to deal with the three issues.

Yamahana said he wants a separate forum from the House of Representatives Budget Committee, which initially is to debate the budget bill.

He said the SDP will seek to have the LDP comply with its demand that former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and four others linked to the scandal testify before the Diet to unravel the truth about the influence of mobsters in Japanese politics.

Yamahana said the party will demand a serious response from the LDP to opposition allegations that Takeshita committed perjury in breach of the Diet Testimony Law during testimony under oath before the Diet on November 26 and December 7.

Opposition parties have alleged that Takeshita lied when he denied knowing about the role played by Susumu Ishii, deceased don of a crime syndicate, in silencing an ultranationalist group that waged a smear campaign in 1987 against Takeshita. At the time Takeshita was running for the LDP presidency, which he won. The position automatically elevated him to prime minister.

Japanese law provides for a maximum 10 years in prison for lying to the Diet under oath.

Yamahana said his party wants to clarify allegations that Takeshita committed perjury again when he denied writing a memo in which he allegedly vowed to protect former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka when he took over the LDP's biggest faction.

The charge of false testimony was first raised by Masaru Urata, an LDP legislator of the House of Councillors, who said he saw Takeshita write a memo in a Japanese restaurant in Tokyo in September 1987 when Takeshita was seeking the LDP presidency.

Yamahana said his party has submitted a copy of the memo for professional handwriting analysis and is waiting for the result.

The SDP chief also vowed to seek to revive public trust in his party by introducing greater transparency to the process of its political bargaining with the LDP during a 150-day ordinary Diet session that starts Friday.

"The chief reason for public distrust in politics has been that the Diet steering committee members of the opposition parties and the LDP have reconciled their differences through back-stage consultations, rather than through open parliamentary debate," he said.

Yamahana made the remarks in response to media allegations that the SDP might have softened its criticism of political scandals involving the LDP because of their cozy relationship under the "kokutai" (Diet-steering) political process.

"I am aware that public disaffection with politics stems from these back-stage bargainings between ruling and opposition parties," he said.

Miyazawa Expresses Concern Over Economy

OW1901114793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed concern Tuesday over the domestic economic situation, saying developments in the next few months warrant close attention, officials said.

Miyazawa made the observation during a meeting at his official residence with Gaishi Hiraiwa, head of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the officials said.

Hiraiwa was quoted as telling Miyazawa the domestic situation has reached a point requiring corporations to reduce their work forces if the current slump drags on beyond March.

Finance Official on Taxes, Fund Recycling

OW2001104693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Standing against mounting calls for income tax reduction from business leaders, a senior Finance Ministry official rejected the idea Wednesday, reaffirming the ministry's recent stance, saying a tax cut would not be effective enough to override its costs.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the business leaders are "thinking little" about the "order of fiscal policy." Under current government revenue circumstances, cutting taxes would lead directly to floating debt-financing bonds, he said.

Besides, he said, propping up the economy can be done more effectively through public works investments and the impact of cutting taxes is estimated to be only half that of public works spending.

On Tuesday, Hiroshi Saito, president of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, called for additional pump-priming measures including an income tax cut as well as an official discount rate cut.

Other business leaders, such as Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), have recently made similar requests as well.

The official, however, said the issue could be studied in the future as part of tax reforms to make the tax system more fair.

Turning to the U.S. economy, the official said he thinks conditions are improving, given what he sees from statistics.

Asked if a U.S. economic recovery will increase Japanese exports to the U.S., which would trigger trade friction, the official said it will depend on the strategy President Bill Clinton, who is to be inaugurated later Wednesday, comes up with.

At the same time, he partly defended Japan's trade surplus, saying Japan is the only country with a surplus among the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations. "What would the G-7 do to the rest of the world (as global leaders) if Japan's surplus diminishes?"

With respect to recyling funds to developing nations, the official said Japan should make possible contributions but he refrained from mentioning specific amounts.

Last week in Brussels, Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori proposed recycling 130 billion dollars of funds to developing nations, following a similar scheme that ends March 31.

Under the current five-year plan, Japan will have recycled 67.1 billion dollars of funds to developing nations. The Finance Ministry official, however, noted past initiatives were targeted at recycling funds mainly to Latin America, which was suffering from accumulated debts.

"But now, who do you think needs funds the most?" He asked, and said "Russia." There is, however, a political barrier to Japan playing a major funding role in Russia in light of the dispute over the northern territories, the Russia-held islands off Hokkaido, claimed by Japan.

The official also said there has been a considerable amount of fund recycling, as can be seen from the restrained growth of Japan's foreign reserves despite its rising current account surplus.

That surplus is largely flowing out of Japan through foreign exchange dealers as they adjust their positions, he said, and the important thing is to seek measures to concentrate the flow of funds to where it is needed.

LDP Panel Chief Urges Study of Tax Cut

OW2101101493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The head of an advisory tax panel to the ruling party on Thursday proposed a cut in income tax funded on refunds and for a limited fiscal year, possibly from this summer. Kabun Muto, chairman of the governing Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Tax System Research Council, told reporters that income tax cuts could not continue indefinitely.

"A refund method for a single year is a preferable way of coping with the current economic slowdown," he said.

"The government should study the possibility of making a tax cut at about the time summer bonuses are paid," Muto said. He added that the public needs to perceive a reduction is on the cards.

Muto is known to favor an income tax cut of 5-6 trillion yen funded by deficit-covering bonds, and on Thursday he said the final decision rests with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

"Those (earlier remarks) are my personal view, and the government is probably still taking a cautious stance about issuing deficit-covering bonds," he said.

Separately, Shizuka Kamei, acting chairman of the party's Economic Policy Headquarters, told reporters that measures to stabilize the financial system will be one of the major items for an economic package the party plans to launch.

Speaking after the first meeting of the newly formed headquarters, Kamei said the party will draft the package in mid-March. He sees the need to "apply a scalpel" of sharp change in the financial system because the fiscal 1993 budget will end up being ineffective if nonperforming loans at banks and other lingering problems remain untouched.

Kamei also singled out the fall in the prices of land, stock, and other assets as problems needing attention that fall outside budget planning.

Drop in Plants, Equipment Investments Noted

OW1601135693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—A growing number of enterprises are refraining from new investments in plants and equipment due to economic uncertainty, a government-affiliated agency reported Saturday.

The Japan Industrial Location Center, affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said the number of companies looking for locations of new factories has decreased for the second straight year in fiscal 1992.

The agency said the report was based on a survey of 3,000 manufacturers last November.

The survey showed that 195 out of the 837 responding firms, or 23.3 percent, replied they are looking for new facility sites, down 9.6 percentage points from the previous year.

The year-on-year fall was bigger than the 4.3 point decline recorded in fiscal 1986 when the Japanese economy was battered by the yen's steep appreciation against other currencies, discouraging enterprises from making new investment, the center said.

In fiscal 1986, the number of firms looking for locations of new factories accounted for 14.7 percent of the respondents, it said.

The latest survey showed a marked decrease in the Tokyo and surrounding areas while an increase was seen in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions where transportation networks have improved, the center said.

North Korea

Radio Links U.S. Policy Change, Improved Relations

SK2101125593 Pyongyang Radio in Korean to South Korea 0945 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk "The Responsibility Rests With the United States" from the "Broadcast For the South Korean Armed Forces" program]

[Text] The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song in his New Year's address proclaimed the idea and policy of resolving the issue of the country's reunification on the principle of national independence and stressed importantly that the relevant countries related to the Korean question should actively cooperate in the cause of reunification.

As everyone knows, the issue of Korean reunification is the issue for which the countries concerned should feel responsible and cooperate actively in view of the historical cause of the issue and in view of the cause of the Korean division that has been continuing up to today.

It is important that particularly the United States, more than any other country concerned, fulfill its responsibility, because the United States is a country directly responsible for the Korean division and because the delay in resolving the issue of our country's reunification is closely linked with the U.S. policy toward Korea.

The Korean division began with the U.S. occupation of South Korea by force. The United States, permanently stationing its aggressor forces in South Korea since liberation in August 1945, exercised a de facto right of governing South Korea by implementing the notorious military government. By so doing, the United States violently trampled upon the people's democratic national rights, made the 38th parallel—which it drew as a line for disarming the Japanese imperialists—a national division line, which led even to the building of the concrete wall, an iron wall which prevents travel between the North and South of Korea.

The United States would not withdraw its aggressor forces stationed in South Korea, even today embellishing them as a liberator and protector. Continually engaging in unjust interference and obstruction maneuvers against the Korean reunification issue, the United States continues dividing the country.

Whenever the aspiration for national reconciliation, unity, and reunification was heightened greatly, the United States instigated the South Korean puppets into the bloody suppression of the patriotic forces struggling for reunification. When dialogue and negotiation was conducted between the North and the South, creating a good environment for the peaceful reunification of the country, the United States said that excessive expectations of dialogue is not advisable, intentionally aggravated the situation, and instigated the South Korean puppets toward confrontation.

Early in the 1970's when the 4 July North-South Joint Statement was issued between the North and the South with its basic contents of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity, the United States instigated the South Korean puppet clique and had it issue the divisive 23 June declaration, thus having it declare the two Koreas plot as a policy.

Also, when the historic agreement was adopted recently between the North and the South, the United States called it a hasty action and had the South Korean puppets reserve its implementation, instigating them into engaging in delay and avoidance tactics in dialogue.

Under the pretext that it should fill the vacuum resulting from the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise last year, the United States continually conducted large-scale war rehearsals called "Focus Lens" and "Toksuri," in the sky, in the land, and on the sea of South Korea, aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula and creating artificial obstacles and difficulties for the progress of North-South dialogue.

Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists, with the South Korean puppets, made an issue of our nonexistent development of nuclear weapons and declared the resumption of the Team Spirit war rehearsal. Despite our repeated warning, the United States did not withdraw its unjust decision, driving North-South dialogue into a state of rupture.

Facts show that the United States is the basic obstacle blocking the reunification of our country and the basic ringleader of division. The United States can never avoid the responsibility it has for the Korean question but should fulfill its responsibility.

For the United States to fulfill its responsibility, it should, above all, abandon the old concept of the cold war era. It is anachronistic that the United States should treat the Korean question from the position of strength peculiar to the cold war era. The United States should abandon its old policy toward Korea peculiar to the cold war era in conformity with the demand of the times, international justice, and the principle of equality, bring an end to its military occupation of South Korea, and immediately stop its unjust military threat and economic pressure on us.

The United States should do what is helpful to the Korean reunification. If the United States modifies its policy toward Korea in keeping with the trend of the times and moves in the direction of helping the Korean reunification, it will be welcomed by the people of Korea and the world and a new phase can be opened for the Korean reunification and for the improvement of Korea-U.S. relations.

The officers and men of the South Korean Armed Forces: You should see today's reality squarely and should not follow the criminal road any more against the fellow countrymen and hampering the country's reunification following the U.S. policy toward Korea. If you follow the road of national treachery running continuously to the trend of the times, you will leave a shameful stain before the country and the nation as your predecessors did.

You should join the trend of the nation that has launched itself into the realization of the country's reunification in the 1990's without fail.

U.S. 'Under Obligation' To Aid Reunification

SK1601233993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 16 Jan 93

["U.S. and Japanese Reactionaries' Moves To Obstruct Peace and Reunification of Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 16 (KCNA)—If the question of Korea's reunification is to be solved, the countries responsible for the Korean issue must renounce without hesitation their outdated policy of the Cold War period.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has said:

"The question of Korea's reunification is a national issue which our nation should solve as the motive force and, at the same time, it is an international one for which the countries concerned should take responsibility and cooperate in every possible way."

The United States is the very one directly responsible for the Korean question, so it is under obligation to make a positive contribution to accelerating Korea's reunification. The United States, however, is dead set against the peace and reunification of Korea, still clinging to the "policy of strength" after the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation were adopted and brought into effect. During his tour of South Korea Bush said the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement before the "nuclear problem of the North" was solved was a "hasty conduct," putting pressure on the South Korean authorities to "shelve" its implementation. At a U.S.-South Korea "security consultative meeting" they decided to cancel the nuclear weapons' withdrawal plan and "phased cutback program" of the U.S. troops from South Korea.

The United States went so far as to commit itself to deploying high-tech military equipment including "Stealth" bombers in South Korea, taking steps for sea blockade and economic sanctions against the DPRK and keeping South Korea under the protection of its "nuclear umbrella".

Last year the United States announced discontinuation of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, but it ceaselessly staged such nuclear war exercises as "Focus Lens" joint military training, "Operation 92 Prevail-Over-Communism," "Eagle 92" and "Hwarang" and decided to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

It is because of the criminal moves of the U.S. imperialists that the exchange of old parents' visiting groups and art troupes ended abortive, first meetings of the North-South joint committees were foiled and the 9th North-South high-level talks came to a standstill.

No sooner had the U.S. imperialists entered the new year than they staged with the South Korean authorities war gambles in succession, such as joint air war exercises to increase capabilities of surprise bombing and joint strike at the strategic vantages of the northern half of the country, an exercise for winning the air, an exercise of airborne support to mechanized infantry units in a ground attack operation, and missile strike exercises of formations of armed helicopters against the frontline targets of the North side.

The Japanese authorities, too, are dutybound to show good will toward the Korean question. The Japanese reactionaries are joining in the criminal moves of the splittists at home and abroad, pursuing one-sided policy hostile to the DPRK Government. They brought the DPRK-Japan talks to a rupture by taking issue with the DPRK over its "nuclear problem", legalized the troop dispatch of the "Self-Defence Forces" abroad under the pretext of the "U.N. peace-keeping cooperation" and are rushing headlong toward a nuclear power.

They spread the false rumor of "development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK and are seeking an inspection of it with the aim of obstructing peace and reunification of Korea, justifying their nuclear armament program and providing an occasion for Japan to leap into a nuclear power against the Korean people.

The countries concerned with the Korean question should take the stand to solve the Korean question fairly to meet the demand of the times and the principle of international justice.

Pyongyang Reports 18 Jan Air Strike on Iraq

SK1901134293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1217 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] According to reports, the U.S.-led coalition forces' planes on 18 January attacked the southern and northern regions of Iraq. The U.S. White House spokesman, confirming this, said that the third strike since 13 January was a countermeasure against the Iraqi attempt to restore the ground-to-air missile system in the region south of the 32d parallel.

According to the Voice of America broadcast, about 75 planes of the United States, Britain, and France, which took off from the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in the waters of the Persian Gulf and from the air bases in Saudi Arabia, participated in the air raid.

In the air raid, the coalition forces planes struck a number of facilities that had been the targets of the 13 January air raid as well as Iraqi ground-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft radar facilities in the no-fly zone in the northern part of Iraq, according to the foreign press reports.

The Iraqi News Agency [INA], quoting the remarks of an Iraqi Army spokesman, said that the enemy planes committed (?two rounds of) air raid on that day but fled running into Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. The news agency said that there were nine rounds of combat between Iraqi planes and the coalition forces planes and that the coalition forces' air raid against the northern and southern Iraq claimed 21 lives.

A Baghdad broadcast on 18 January reported that the Iraqi armed forces intercepted three Cruise missiles of the U.S. Forces during the Cruise missile attack on the southern outskirts of the capital on 17 January.

The INA said that a missile hit the Al Rashid Hotel in the heart of Baghdad where foreign reporters were staying, claiming over 31 casualties. Foreign press reported that two other areas of Baghdad were hit by missiles.

The BBC reported that Iraq fired a missile at (?Dhahran), Saudi Arabia. An air-raid siren was heard in (?Dhahran) and Kuwait City, according to the report.

Meanwhile, all of the U.S. special mobile strike forces of 1,100 troops have arrived in Kuwait. AP said that the U.S.-led coalition forces now have the armed forces of about 200 fighter planes and 15,000 troops in the Persian Gulf area.

According to the [word indistinct] news agency, Iraq has begun to concentrate its forces on the border between the area it governs and the Kurdish area protected by the coalition forces and the Kuwaiti armed forces on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border will go on alert.

JNCC Chairman Sends Telephone Message to South

SK2001134293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Choe U-chin, our side's chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to the South side's chairman Kong No-myong today.

The telephone message noted:

In an earnest desire to expedite the work of the JNCC as rapidly as possible, I have sent you as many as four telephone messages this year.

As we have repeatedly emphasized, the status of the work of the JNCC confirms that our position on holding the basic meeting concurrently with the members' contact is very realistic and just. However, your side has continued to ignore our reasonable proposal. In pursuit of other insidious purposes, your side has been intent on making absurd excuses in an effort to escape responsibility for causing the work of the JNCC to slump.

In your telephone message your side repeated its call for the members' contact, wanting to avoid holding the basic meeting. This shows that your side has no intention of realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The basic form of meeting for our two sides to expedite the discussion of the inspection rules and to push ahead with the denuclearization of the country is the meeting of the North-South JNCC. This basic meeting should be operated correctly in order to bring about a successful members' contact. The fact that on the way to bringing progress to the JNCC's work the basic meeting has been held on 13 occasions while the members' contact has been held on eight occasions proves this.

Furthermore, to make promotion of our work this year a priority, it is imperative that we hold a basic meeting, in which all the JNCC members of the North and the South sit face to face, exchange New Year's greetings as fellow countrymen, and pledge joint resolutions. From this standpoint, our side has repeatedly proposed that the two sides concurrently hold the basic meeting and the members' contact. We deeply regret that your side blindly rejected our proposal.

In your 18 January telephone message, your side repeated its obstinate assertion and proposed a chairmen's contact. We still think this is not the best way to solve the problem. Even if the chairmen of the two sides sit face to face, our chairmen should discuss fundamental issues, like the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is an obstacle to the progress of the basic meeting.

Nevertheless, your side does not intend to remove an obstacle as fundamental as the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a test nuclear war exercise hurting the common interest of the nation. This runs counter to the aspirations of the fellow countrymen and the trend of the times.

I maintain that if we chairmen are to meet, we should make the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise the basic item on the agenda and discuss it in depth. On condition that we discuss this problem, I inform you that I will go to a chairmen's contact with two suite members at 1000 on 25 January.

U.S. Defense Department Publication Draws Criticism

KCNA: Upholding 'Imperialist Interests'

SK1901110093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 19 Jan 93

["'Defense Report' Revealing Aggressive Nature"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. Bush administration submitted a "defense report" for 1993 to Congress on January 15, according to a foreign press report.

It sets out the reorganization of the Army for a "quick reaction to regional threat", maintenance of "military commitments" to the regions where the U.S. "national interests" are at stake and buildup of "strategic combat force" with submarines carrying missiles, intercontinenal ballistic missiles and long-distance bombers as the three pillars.

This makes no secret of the U.S. intention to mount an attack unhesitatingly on any region and any country of the world if a situation contrary to its imperialist interests is created.

The Bush administration also revealed in the "report" that the U.S. had no willingness to scrap their arms which had been stockpiled in the "cold war" era but scheme to use them more effectively in attaining their aggressive aim in the "unipolarized world".

It must not go unnoticed that the Bush administration declared it as the keynote of the "Pacific strategy" of the U.S. to maintain its "forward deployed combat forces" in Japan and South Korea and reinforce Armed Forces from Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. mainland. This indicates that the U.S. belligerent quarters intend to keep South Korea and Japan as the main springboard for the implementation of their aggressive "Pacific strategy".

The "report" also urged Japan to increase its "defence buildup" and its share of "international burden," which shows that the United States is openly encouraging and instigating Japan to become a military power.

NODONG SINMUN: 'Slandered' North

SK2001045093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 20 Jan 93

["Anachronistic Preaching"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 20 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney in a recent "Defence Report" slandered the DPRK again, alleging that it has already begun acquiring "nuclear capacity" and the U.S. forces should remain in South Korea.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

Tension persists on the Korean peninsula because the U.S. forces stay in South Korea and the United States and the South Korean authorities are hellbent on war moves against the DPRK. Nevertheless, Cheney insisted on the maintenance of the U.S. forces in South Korea. He sought in this to render the situation of the Korean peninsula strained and put a brake on the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The analyst notes:

It is quite contradictory to the trend of the present time that he, clinging to the thinking-pattern of the cold war period, insisted on the old Korean policy to keep the U.S. troops indefinitely in South Korea.

The U.S. forces have no reason or excuse to stay in South Korea today when the inter-Korean agreement has been adopted and effectuated.

As long as the U.S. aggression forces are present in South Korea, the Korean question cannot be resolved peacefully.

If the Korean question, an offspring of the cold war, is to be fully solved, it is urgent, above all, for the United States to renounce its old policy of the cold war era and withdraw its aggression forces from South Korea.

Radio: Making Invasion Plans

SK1901085693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1149 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Chong Pong-kil commentary: "War Plan To Accelerate Prepations for Northward Invasion"]

[Text] According to a foreign report, on 15 January U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney made public the 1993 edition of the defense report, the last report for the Bush government.

He noted in this so-called the defense report that the world is still filled with danger. He also raved that North Korea has already tried to acquire nuclear capability, and sufficient frontline deployment forces should be continuously maintained in East Asia because there is danger of war on the Korean peninsula and in other countries. He stressed that importance should be attached to maintaining firepower deployed in forward bases in South Korea, as well as reinforcing troops from Hawaii and the U.S. mainland, and so forth.

This means that the United States will maintain intact the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in South Korea on the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear suspicions and will deploy troops in South Korea from the U.S. mainland and bases in the Pacific as reinforcements. This is a war plan for accelerating preparations for a northward war of aggression.

We have not just once or twice clarified tnat there are no nuclear weapons in the northern half of the republic, moreover, we have no intention or capability to develop them.

The five nonregular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] prove that there should be no nuclear suspicions about us. Even the Americans themselves confirmed that we have no nuclear weapons nor do we have the intention to develop them. It is none other than the U.S. imperialists who are viciously maneuvering to use nuclear weapons after having deployed many of them in South Korea.

This notwithstanding, they rave that we have already tried to acquire nuclear capability. This is shameless act is same as a thief calling, "Stop thief!"

Using nonexistent nuclear suspicions as a pretext, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to legalize their occupation of South Korea and kick off a northward war of aggression.

Using nuclear suspicion as a pretext, the U.S. imperialists decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year, which was already suspended. RisCassi, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in South Korea, openly noted that the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise is under preparations, that he will deal with someone else in a certain way, and so forth. All of this is no accident.

Based on the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear development, this kind of act by the U.S. imperialists shows at what point their new war provocation maneuvers have reached.

Cheney's emphasis on maintaining firepower in forward bases in South Korea and on using reinforcements from Hawaii and the U.S. mainland demonstrates an attempt to provoke a northward war of aggression and to deploy enormous aggressive forces from the U.S. mainland and bases in the Pacific areas on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists, in actuality, are using the Team Spirit joint military exercise to promote their ability to bring enormous aggressive forces from the U.S. mainland and bases in the Pacific areas to South Korea.

The rascals, whenever they staged the Team Spirit war exercise against us in the past, began with introducing into South Korea enormous armed forces of aggression from military bases in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific, including Hawaii and Japan, and mobilized more than 1,000 nuclear weapons of various types and U.S. imperialist forces deployed in South Korea, and the South Korean puppet army, in addition to their armed forces of aggression stationed overseas.

It cannot be overlooked that Cheney has made the absurd remarks inciting a war of northward invasion at a time when the ninth North-South high-level talks have been frozen because of the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and, consequently, the situation on the Korean peninsula has entered a new tense situation. Furthermore, it is preposterous that Cheney babbled that it is necessary to maintain enough forward-deployed armed forces in South Korea because the Korean peninsula is divided.

It is because of the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression that the Korean peninsula has not been reunified but is still divided into two parts. Also, it is because of the U.S. imperialists' manuevers for a war of northward invasion that a tense situation has been aggravated on the Korean peninsula and the danger of a new war has increased there.

The occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression is the main obstacle to national reunification and the source of war. If the United States withdraws nuclear weapons and armed forces of aggression from South Korea a bright vista for national reunification will be opened and a durable peace will be achieved on the Korean peninsula.

This notwithstanding, Cheney babbled about forward deployment of armed forces and the like. This is indeed a brigandish sophistry.

Facts prove that the U.S. imperialists' manuevers for a new war have become more unscrupulous. The U.S. imperialists should ponder the grave consequences their reckless war maneuvers will create and should not act indiscreetly. The United States should rectify its old policy toward Korea, should renounce its unwarranted policy of occupying South Korea, and should withdraw from South Korea all armed forces of aggression, including nuclear weapons. At the same time, it should cancel its plan to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

NODONG SINMUN Wary of Japanese 'Political Power'

SK1701100093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0854 GMT 17 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces Japan's Moves To Become Political Power"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 17 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government recently drafted a new "principle" on deploying "peace-keeping personnel" overseas more rapidly. The keynote of the new "principle" is that Japan could dispatch "PKO [Peace-Keeping Operations] troops" on its own initiative, even before it is officially requested by the United Nations. In the meantime, the Japanese Defense Agency said that it would examine a program to introduce long-distance large transport planes and the foreign minister cried for increasing the "international role" of the "Self- Defence Forces."

NODONG SINMUN today brands these moves of Japan as a token of the Japanese authorities' scheme to expand the political influence by becoming a political power in the international arena.

The news analyst says:

To become a political power is a design dreamt of by Japan all along after being revived from defeat to be an economic power.

Regarding the end of cold war as a good opportunity to become a political power, the Japanese Government authorities are trying to play an active role in the international arena.

Out of this wild desire, they are becoming more zealous in troop dispatch abroad under the cloak of "peace" and "international contribution" and trying to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, invigorating diplomatic offensive under the slogan of "friendship" and "cooperation".

This is, however, a rash act of Japan which has not yet cast off the slough of imperialism which committed so monstrous crimes against mankind.

Japan must not dream of a political power but correctly liquidate her past wrongs first of all.

Their refusal to fully liquidate the past means to intend to repeat the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists.

It is very dangerous for Japan to try to act a political power and decide on important international affairs.

As long as Japan fails to adequately liquidate her past, her dream of becoming a political power is foolish.

'Groundlessly' Slinging Mud

SK1801060993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 18 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Japanese Government Official's Slander of DPRK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today lashes at the Japanese authorities who heaped abuses on the DPRK in an attempt to mislead public opinion at home and abroad after shipping in 1.7 ton of plutonium from France.

A ranking official of the Japanese Government drivelled that the route of the transport ship of plutonium was kept a secret "in fear of the interception of the nuclear material by North Korea," the news analyst notes, and says: This was a mean invective against the DPRK and a grave insult to the dignity of the Korean nation.

The analyst says:

The Japanese authorities argue that the worldwide criticism of the shipment of plutonium was caused by the secrecy of the transport route. This is a ridiculous protestation to conceal the essence of the fact and divert elsewhere the people's attention. It is Japan's stockpiling of a large amount of plutonium that the world people are concerned and worried about.

Japan worked out early last year a plan to secure 400 tons of plutonium in 30 years and voted against the resolutions on banning the production and use of nuclear weapons and their deployment at the 33rd and 36th sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

Judging from all this the world public views that Japan is building itself into a nuclear power. Japan's nuclear armament poses a grave threat to peace in Asia and the world.

Although Japan groundlessly slung mud at the DPRK in an attempt to divert the criticism elsewhere and conceal its nuclear armament, nobody will believe it. The only way for Japan to get rid of worldwide criticism is to give up the ambitious nuclear armament.

UNDP Signs Document on Energy Development

SK1901051993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—A document on all-round energy projects between the DPRK and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] was signed here Monday [18 January].

Present at the signing ceremony were officials concerned and UNDP representative here Henning Karcher.

The projects include those of rational use of energy at the lowest industrial units, reinforcement of the Pyongyang thermal power complex and planning of the power grid. The projects will cost 2.7 million dollars.

A document on prework for the international economic assistance project was also signed on the same day.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Greater Electricity Yield

SK1901102093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0016 GMT 19 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 19 January editorial: "Let Us Vigorously Wage the Struggle To Increase the Production of Electricity and Conserve It"]

[Text] The electric industry, along with the coal and metallurgical industries, is one of key areas on which we must concentrate our efforts in this year's economic construction.

In his New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: Key areas on which we must concentrate our efforts in economic construction are the coal, electric, and metallurgical industries.

Electricity is a basic power source for production. Only when we give top priority to the electric industry over other industries and endless increase the production of electricity, can we normalize production in all fields of the people's economy on a high level and satisfactorily meet the ever-increasing demand for electricity.

In hearty response to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, all the party members and workers across the country are accelerating the all-out forward movement to more highly display the superiority of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style in which the chuche idea is implemented and score great upsurges in socialist construction. As a result, demand for electricity, a basic power source for production, is endlessly increasing in all the fields and units of the people's economy.

Further increasing the production of electricity and conserving it to the utmost is also an urgent issue in increasing the production of coal, steel products, and fertilizers. We must produce more electricity and conserve it to the utmost to rapidly develop the over-all people's economy, further consolidate a basic for economic self-reliance, and rapidly improve the people's standard of living this year.

To innovate technology, mechanize and automate all fields of the people's economy, and introduce computers and robots into these fields, we must score great changes in producing electricity and conserve it. The party has decided that the electric industry is a key area on which we must concentrate our efforts in this year's economic construction. All the officials and workers in the electric industry, cherishing the party's such intention deep in their hearts, must more vigorously wage the struggle to produce electricity and conserve it.

Vigorously waging the struggle to operate the existing electricity generation facilities at fullest capacity with a new resolve and determination is an important demand for scoring upsurges in the production of electricity. Under the party's wise leadership, large and small hydraulic and thermal power stations have been built in various places of our country, and their electricity generation capacity is very big. Under these circumstances, only if we maintain and repair power stations and their related facilities in a timely manner and efficiently use them, we will be able to better meet the rapidly growing demand for electricity.

In response to our party's intention to bring great change in economic construction this year, all the officials and workers in the power industry must have a stronger resolve and determination to score upsurges in the production of electricity, more carefully carry out the production organization work, and vigorously carry out the movement for technological innovation.

Good facilities management is an important work on which we should place emphasis so as to operate all the generators at full capacity and operate the existing power generation capacity to the maximum degree. All the power plants should set up correct plans for the maintenance and repair of power generation facilities and establish rigorous discipline for the thorough execution of them.

All the power producers of power plants should be well versed in the facilities they handle and thoroughly abide by the technological regulations and standard operation manual in the use and management of them.

It is important for us to supply the power plants with sufficient fuel and water and to manage them well. It is of particular significance to supply coal and water well-suited to the conditions in winter to increase the production of electricity at the existing power plants. The coal mining industry sector should be aware that the power generation at thermal power plants is largely and definitely dependent on the supply of coal and increase the production of good quality coal to supply it for power plants. The coal transport sector should pay particular attention to the transport of coal and properly carry on the organizational and commanding work for transport.

The hydro-electric power plants should carry out well the maintenance and repair work so that not a drop of water may leak from the various hydro-electric power generation structures.

We should accelerate building power plants continuously and vigorously. The power plant building sector should further accelerate the construction of power plants, such as Namgang Power Plant and Tongpyongyang Power Plant, for which the construction has already begun and made much progress, and advance the date for turning them into operation as best as possible.

In this connection the machine industry sector should accelerate the production of various power generation facilities, including large-size generators, transformers, and large-size boilers, so as to ship them to the relevant power plants within the target date.

We should carry out building small- and medium-size power plants well and continuously and produce and supply the necessary facilities and materials in a responsible manner.

Vigorously conducting the struggle for saving electricity is one of the important ways to better supply the increasing demand of the people's economy for electricity. The power industry sector should establish a proper and unified management system for the electric power systems and properly carry out the work of grasping and controlling the supply and consumption of electricity in a responsible manner.

Properly carrying out the alternative production [kyocha saengsan] organization is an important requisite to most effectively utilizing the electricity produced and to solving the acute [kinjanghan] electricity problem. The plants, enterprises, and local authorities should carry out the alternative production organization in a reasonable manner and establish a rigorous discipline to use the electricity according to it.

The plants, enterprises, and households should vigorously conduct the electricity saving campaign as a movement of all the masses. In particular, they should thoroughly abide by the electricity utilization order and properly carry on the work of saving electricity as best as possible. The relevant organizations should properly carry on the work of using and saving electricity, and set up proper measures to prevent waste in electricity.

To conduct the vigorous struggle for the production of electricity, the construction of power plants, and saving electricity, we should radically enhance the role of the party organizations of all levels. The party organizations of all levels of the power industry sector should intensively explain and propagate to the electricity producers the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and the party's intent on intensifying the struggle for the production and saving of electricity in the light of the prevailing reality. The party organizations and functionaries of all levels of the power plant construction sector should intensify the political work, the work with people, so that the builders may create a new speed in building power plants highly displaying the struggle spirit they displayed during wartime and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and mass heroism.

The party organizations of all levels of all sectors of the people's economy should make the party members and working people give deep attention always to the production of electricity, actively solve the pending problems, and see to it that everyone is ideologically mobilized into the work of saving electricity. Let us all uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and launch ourselves into the struggle to increase the production of electricity and to save electricity so as to truly contribute to the realization of the important target in socialist construction.

South Korea

Kim Il-song Reportedly Visited China in Secret

SK2001140193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1326 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—North Korean President Kim Il-song secretly visited China last November to ask for more military and economic assistance from China, the NHK broadcast of Japan reported Wednesday evening.

Quoting a reliable source in Beijing, NHK said Kim Il-song, accompanied by senior administration and military officials, visited Beijing around Nov. 20 by special train.

During his two-day stay in Beijing, it said, he met Chinese President Yang Shangkun and other Beijing leaders. In a series of meetings, Kim explained about North Korea's economic construction programs and asked for military support such as the furnishing of military hardware along with economic assistance. But, China expressly rejected any stepped-up military support though it offered to accept the call for additional economic assistance to a certain extent.

The source was quoted as saying, "President Kim originally planned to take his heir and son, Kim Chong-il, with him, but the junior Kim's visit was withheld as a result of consultations with Chinese authorities."

The two sides decided to handle President Kim's visit as a so- called "internal visit" and not to make public anything about his visit, the source reportedly said.

China still has influence on North Korea by extending both economic and military support to Pyongyang to a certain extent, urging the North, for instance, to be more flexible, NHK said.

DPRK Reportedly Urges U.S. To Modify Pyongyang Policy

SK2101093493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0920 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea on Wednesday stressed that if the United States modifies its policy toward North Korea, a "new phase could be opened for the improvement of Pyongyang-Washington relations."

The NAEWOE Press, specializing in North Korean affairs, reported Thursday that a commentary broadcast by Radio Pyongyang made the assertion while emphasizing the importance of cooperation among countries related to the Korean question. The commentary was timed with U.S. President Bill Clinton's inauguration Wednesday.

"If the United States modifies its policy toward North Korea in keeping with the flow of times and moves in the direction of supporting Korean unification, they would be welcomed by Korean and world peoples," the radio commentary said.

Asserting that the U.S. is a country "responsible for the division of the Korean peninsula" and that a delay in unification is closely linked to the United States' North Korean policy, the radio said it is important for the related countries, especially the U.S., to fulfill their obligations.

No Tae-u Congratulates Clinton

SK2101023493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u sent a congratulatory message to U.S. President Bill Clinton on his inauguration Wednesday.

"On this happy occasion of your inauguration as the 42nd President of the United States of America, I would like to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Korea," No said.

"I applaud you most sincerely for the lofty goals you have set for the United States in the post-cold war world, and I am confident that the relations between our two countries will develop even further under your leadership."

President-elect Kim Yong-sam also sent a message, saying he hoped for the continuous development of friendly ties between the two countries.

Kim said that he was impressed with Clinton's resolve to make the United States richer and stronger, but traditional friendly ties should be strengthened for closer cooperation.

The Democratic Party issued a statement congratulating Clinton on his inauguration, saying it hoped the new U.S. Administration would be of help to world peace and human prosperity.

Vice spokesman Yi Chun-hyong said the party hoped that Clinton would make policy decisions on trade in a considerate manner, recognizing that Koreans worry about U.S. trade pressure and rice market opening.

Pyon Chong-il, spokesman of the United People's Party, said his party hoped that the new administration would do its best for world peace and the prosperity of the human race.

It hoped that both countries would fortify bilateral ties in all fields and foster friendly ties and mutual understanding by taking a future-oriented stance in trade negotiations, he said.

Additional Greetings

SK2001125193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The government extended felicitations to U.S. President Bill Clinton on his inauguration Wednesday.

"We heartily congratulate President Bill Clinton on his inauguration. We expect that under his leadership the U.S. Administration will further contribute to world peace and prosperity of mankind, and will continue to take a leading role in the expansion of democracy and freedom," the government said.

In a comment on President Clinton's inauguration, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yu Myong-hwan said that the government expects that under the Clinton administration, too, Korea and the United States will deepen their cooperative relationship in all areas such as politics, security, economy, trade and culture.

"Our government also highly evaluates the achievements made by President George Bush who had in the past four years successfully led a great international turning point in ending the Cold War and contributed much to the development of friendly relations between Korea and the United States," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the majority Democratic Liberal Party expressed the hope Wednesday that President Bill Clinton's inauguration in the U.S. would serve as an "occasion to further cement the amicable relations existing between Korea and the United States."

In a statement issued by party spokesman Pak Hui-tae, the party said it hopes that under the Clinton administration there will be fresh decisions on the security, economic and trade issues pending between the two countries.

"Our two countries should further strengthen our cooperative relations as principal role players in the Asia-Pacific age," the party said.

North To Attend JNCC Chairmen's 25 Jan Contact

SK2101104193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1015 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] South and North Korea will resume their contact to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula next week.

Kong No-myong, our side's chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], today sent a telephone message to the North side's chairman Choe U-chin saying that he will attend the chairmen's contact on 25 January.

Discussing Team Spirit 'Inappropriate'

SK2101070093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0649 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—Kong No-myong, South Korean-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, has told Choe U-chin, northern-side chairman, to meet him at the truce village of Panmunjom on Monday.

"It is inappropriate that the northern side insists on having contact with the South on condition of discussing Team Spirit military exercise," Kong said in a telephone message to Choe Thursday. Kong said he would go to Panmunjom with two officials. He said he and Choe should talk about regulations on mutual nuclear inspections and the future operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission.

DPRK Reportedly 'Frustrated' Over ROK-Russia Ties

SK2101023193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea is relocating every military facility that a Soviet technician ever had anything to do with, because South Korea and

Russia have begun official military exchanges and cooperation, a Russian daily reported Wednesday.

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, in a lengthy analysis titled "Recurrence of Conflicts Between South and North Korea," said that North Korea was embarrassed and frustrated at the signing of a protocol between Seoul and Moscow to develop military exchanges and cooperation.

Russia made clear its decision to abrogate the long-standing Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with North Korea in November 1992, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited Seoul, the paper said.

As Seoul and Moscow begin formalizing military exchanges, North Korea has started to relocate every military facility that Soviet techncians were involved with and is constructing new anti-air raid dugouts to shelter its leaders, the paper said.

South Korea and Russia, in accordance with the agreement on military exchanges signed last year, are expected to expedite exchange programs with a call at the Russian Far East navy base of Vladivostok by Korean naval vessels in April.

Russian naval vessels are expected to call at the South Korean port of Pusan, and the defense ministers or chairmen of the joint chiefs of staff are to visit each other.

North Korea, once informed of the date for the South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit," had frozen all dialogue with the South saying that the drill was a provocation aimed at preparing for an invasion into the North.

The drill had rather helped the North Korean leadership safeguard its establishment, the paper said.

The results of the talks to which the two Koreas have devoted the past two years were on the verge of evaporating due to mutual distrust and intransigence, it added.

DPRK Officials To Attend UNDP Meeting, Visit Seoul

SK2001060793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Three North Korean officials will visit Seoul next week to attend a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) meeting on communications for the Tumen River Development Project, a UNDP official said Wednesday. They will be the first North Korean officials to visit since Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon was here in July last year.

North Korea has informed the UNDP that it will send Choe Song-kuk, head of the External Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee, Yi Song-tok, chief of the joint venture affairs department of the Administration Council, and Kim Myong-ho, chief of communications guidance at the Communications Ministry.

They are to arrive Jan. 27 for four-day stay via Beijing and take part in the discussions on communications facilities for special economic zones such as Rajin and Sonbong in the Tumen River area. Delegates from South Korea, Russia, Japan and Mongolia will also attend the meeting Jan. 29-30.

Government Examining 'Package Settlement' of North-South Issues

SK1801021793 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 18 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] The government is actively examining the possibility of a package settlement of South-North mutual inspection and the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which are the greatest points of contention between South and North Korea, before the new government takes over. This is because the shaky South-North relations may be hinder the promotion of the reunification policy during the early stage of President-elect Kim Yong-sam's government.

The government plans to discuss this matter with President-elect Kim Yong-sam soon and then propose to the North that a delegates' contact on high-level talks or a separate behind-the-scenes contact be held.

At the October 1992 ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting, both sides agreed that as long as North Korea refuses mutual inspection they will continue preparations for the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year. Since then, the United States told the ROK that if our government requests it, the U.S. will be willing to stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise at any time.

A high-ranking government official said: "Since December 1992 South-North relations, including all dialogues, have been stalemated. It would be desirable to resolve the nuclear issue before President-elect Kim Yong-sam's new government sets sail on 25 February so that it will not be a burden and in order to make a new breakthrough in South-North relations."

North-South Dialogue Office Reportedly To Be Scrapped

SK1801032893 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 18 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] In order to deal with the reunification problem effectively, President-elect Kim Yong-sam has decided to abolish the North-South Dialogue Secretariat. Rather, he will reform the National Unification Board extensively and beef up its functions and organizations to ensure that the board takes the initiative in handling the reunification problem.

A high-level aide to President-elect Kim said on 17 January: "During the next government's term in office, which ends in 1998, North-South summit talks will presumably take place, and there will be a fundamental change in North-South relations and the reunification problem." He also said: "To respond to such a change in the situation, it is necessary to reform the National Unification Board, which has played a passive role so far."

This aide also said: "We have found out that the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] has taken the initiative in mapping out and implementing the government's reunification policies, and the National Unification Board has played a secondary role." He also said: "The transition team believes that this abnormal system must be reformed to ensure that the National Unification Board play its intrinsic role."

This official also said: "A plan has been examined to abolish the North-South Dialogue Secretariat, which, though attached to the National Unification Board, has virtually been controlled by the NSP, and to open an office in charge of North-South dialogue inside the National Unification Board."

The North-South Dialogue Secretariat has handled various forms of North-South contact according to the NSP's plans and strategies, while the National Unification Board has played such secondary roles as collecting data and research on North Korea. Therefore, the board, headed by a deputy prime minister, has had a limited function.

This official also said: "The National Unification Board has a policy office. However, it has not been able to play a substantial role." He also said: "Therefore, a plan has been examined to reform the National Unification Board to beef up its function of mapping out policies and to improve the quality of manpower on the board." He also said: "It is necessary for the NSP, which has taken the initiative in formulating and implementing policies toward the North, to devote itself to collecting intelligence and then to share that intelligence with the National Unification Board to ensure that the National Unification Board map out correct policies."

Economic Woes Force DPRK To Reorganize Foreign Missions

SK1801084893 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] North Korea closed its embassies in Sudan, the Ivory Coast, Albania, and Afghanistan during the latter half of last year. And, it has been learned, North Korea would soon close its embassies in Burkina Faso and Togo and integrate its mission to the UN organizations in Vienna into its embassy to Austria. In this way, North Korea has been massively reorganizing its diplomatic missions abroad.

A pertinent ROK Government official said on 17 January: "North Korea has taken this measure to integrate or abolish its embassies because of the change of the situation at home and abroad and the economic difficulties." He also said: "However, in an effort to recover from its stagnant diplomatic activities because of the nuclear issue and other issues, North Korea has been launching diplomatic offensives against Italy, Thailand, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia to use those countries as operating bases in its diplomatic activities."

As a result, North Korea agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations with Mexico and Chile respectively in March and September of last year, opened a permanent mission in Oman in May of last year, and established diplomatic relations with Qatar on 11 January.

North Bans Sunday Driving To Save Energy

SK1801070793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—Sunday driving has been banned in North Korea to save energy, the Japanese economic daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Monday.

The daily, in a feature story on "the worsening economy of North Korea," said that twice last year, in January and in October, the hard-line Stalinist state had called on its people to enhance coal production, and that in November it had urged them to save electricity.

North Korea imported 660,000 tons of grains in 1990 and 1,135,000 tons in 1991 from Canada, Australia and China.

Beijing and Pyongyang were to make payments in hard cash for their trade from January last year, but 70 percent of the deals between the two countries last year was still barter, the daily said.

NIHON KEIZAI projected that North Korea's severe foreign currency shortage would worsen this year as China repeatedly called for the settlement of trade bills in hard currency.

The North was trying to join the Asia Development Bank (ADB) to get a 4.2 billion-U.S.-dollar loan to develop the Najin and Sonbong districts, but was troubled by the ADB requirement of exact economic data. North Korea used to release only figures favorable to itself, the paper said.

North Korea Proposes Barter Trade

SK1801062193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[Text] Citing INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INFORMATION, an organ of China's Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ministry, ASAHI SHIMBUN reported today that North Korean authorities had proposed trade using a barter system to ROK's Samsung, Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar, and Hyundai.

According to ASAHI SHIMBUN, North Korea has proposed that these four ROK companies supply North Korea with agricultural products and oil in return for their import of zinc and steel from North Korea.

ASAHI SHIMBUN said that North Korea is having trouble importing agricultural products and oil from foreign countries, including China, due to a shortage of foreign currency.

Russian Economic Institute Analyzes DPRK Economy

SK1901120893 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by reporter Kim Sok-hwan from Moscow]

[Text] The 1991-1992 report on the status of North Korea's society and economy prepared by the Russia Economy Institute disclosed that North Korea's per capita gross national product in 1992 was $800 and that its per capita military expense share in 1992 was $200.

This report specifies that despite the extreme chaos in the socialist sphere throughout the world, North Korea recorded an overall economic downturn because of its closed economic system—it exported $2.5 billion worth of commodities and imported $1.6 billion worth of goods in 1991, thus recording a 12 percent decrease in trade compared to the previous year.

When North Korea suffered a setback in its relations with Russia and the East European countries, it shifted the focus of its economic exchange from Russia and the East European countries to China, Japan, and other countries. As a result, while the volume of trade with Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Bloc fell 68 percent ($364 million) in 1991 from the previous year, the volume of trade with China increased 29 percent ($654 million) in 1991 over the previous year. Trade with Japan increased 8 percent ($502 million).

This report also said that North Korean is allotting 40 percent of its state budget to build defense, including the development of nuclear and biochemical weapons. It added that while South Korea's per capita military expense share amounts to $120, that of North Korea amounts to $200. Thus, North Korea's per capita burden is becoming heavier.

North Korea has a potential capable of expanding its exports. Nevertheless, North Korea is not developing its economy aimed at expanding exports on the basis of the theory of self-reliance. Instead, it is developing imports and a way to pay for it. North Korea is also trying to achieve its new economic goal by using small-scale foreign loans, the report analyzes.

The report says that right after the former Soviet Union collapsed, North Korea's import of crude oil from Russia decreased sharply and thus operates only 40 to 50 percent of its industrial facility capacity. This is why North Korea is in a critical economic situation.

According to the report, Russia supplied some 500,000 tons of crude oil to North Korea in 1990, remarkably reduced the quantity to 42,000 tons in 1991, and had supplied only 25,000 tons as of September 1992.

Steel production declined because the supply of raw materials such as coke from Russia, Poland, and China conspicuously decreased. As a result, the industrial crisis is spreading extensively.

As part of coping with such a situation, North Korea is searching for potential crude oil suppliers among the other CIS member states. North Korea signed crude oil supply agreements with Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. In the meantime, North Korea is increasing crude oil imports from Iran in exchange for providing Iran with weapons and other technological military services.

Officials Estimate 1992 GNP Growth

SK1601084993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0753 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea's economic growth in the fourth quarter of 1992 is estimated at 2.5 to 2.6 percent and the whole 1992 growth at around 4 percent.

Government officials said Saturday the 4 percent GNP growth last year was the lowest in 12 years after the country registered a minus growth in 1980.

The economy recorded a 6.7 percent real growth in the first half of 1992 and the expansion slowed down sharply to 3.1 percent in the third quarter, they said.

The GNP growth was 6.8 percent in 1989, 9.3 percent in 1990 and 8.4 percent in 1991.

The low economic growth last year was attributable mostly to sluggish exports which had in the past led the high growth and the slowed-down pace of facilities investment by industries, the officials said.

Beef Imports To Drop Due to Consumption Decline

SK1901090593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 19 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will lower its beef imports 9 percent to 120,000 tons this year from last year's 132,000 tons due to a decline in consumption, sources at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Tuesday.

The planned cut in beef purchases would help raise the beef self- sufficiency rate to 48.7 percent from 44.1 percent in 1991 and 43.9 percent last year. The rate was 53.6 percent in 1990.

Consumption growth slowed to 0.6 percent last year from 24 percent in 1990 and 26 percent 1991. Consumption rose 9 percent in the first half and sank 6 percent in the second half over the previous year.

The sharp drop in the second half was engineered by the recession and increases in prices of pre-packaged beef.

The continuing recession is likely to dampen consumption through the first half of this year, but a festive mood after the inauguration of the new administration and expected pump-priming measures may invite a modest 4.5-percent rise in consumption to 234,000 tons this year, officials said.

The ministry expects that 114,000 tons can be supplied by domestic cattle growers, leaving room for 120,000 tons of imports.

Finance Minister Urges Interest Rate Cut

SK1901122193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1106 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 19 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Yi Yong-man stressed Tuesday that regulated interest rates including the rediscount rate should be lowered at an early date. But, Yi said it is not desirable to effect the lowering of rediscount rate and second-stage interest liberalization simultaneously.

The finance minister's view is opposed by Bank of Korea Governor Cho Sun and Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu who call for rediscount rate lowering and interest rate liberalization at the same time without delay.

While meeting with reporters, Minister Yi said he would meet Deputy Premier Choe, BOK Governor Cho and Chongwadae Senior Economic Secretary Yi Chin-sol within this week to discuss the time and extent of rediscount rate lowering and bank rate liberalization.

Saying that last year's economic growth is estimated at 4 percent, less than earlier expected, Yi said that industries' burden should be eased through lowered interest rates "if we want to see the economy recover and record about 7 percent grwoth this year."

The finance minister stressed that since the time of the effectuation of a new economic policy is very important, interest rate decrease should be enforced promptly at a time when the need of the lowering is felt. He thus implied that the downward readjustment of bank rates may be effected this month or in February at the latest.

Government To Accelerate Economic Negotiations With PRC

SK1901035793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea has decided to speed up negotiations on government-to-government accords with China in several economic fields, including aviation, shipping, avoidance of double taxation, fisheries and environmental protection.

Directors-general in charge of related affairs, in a meeting presided over by second assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung, discussed Tuesday a wide range of ways to make economic inroads into China and decided to push for the activation of government-to-government consultative bodies, including joint economic-trade and technology committees, and exchanges of government officials. Also attending was Ambassador to China No Chae-won, here for consultations with the government.

The participants examined the possibility of South Korean businesses having access to China's eighth five-year economic plan and decided to positively support attempts by private companies to secure exclusively Korean industrial complexes in China.

They also decided to work out measures to ease procedures for Chinese businessmen to get entry visas in view of the expanding economic ties between the two countries.

Bank of Korea Decides To Cut Rediscount Rate

SK1701034093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] As part of an across-the-board plan to boost the sagging economy, the Bank of Korea [BOK] has decided to cut the rediscount rate.

A high ranking BOK official said, "To make financial conditions more favorable for the implementation of the interest rate deregulation, the central bank is considering cutting the rediscount rate."

By lowering the rediscount rate, the central bank will help block interest rates from rising in case the interest rate decontrol program is put into practice, he said. The cut of the rediscount rate may come right after the new government is inaugurated on February 25. It also said the interest rate deregulation program and the cutting of the rediscount rate could be implemented simultaneously. The rediscount rate is the rate the central bank charges on loans for general banks.

Behind the central bank's sudden turnaround are the expected poor economic growth rate of less than 3 percent for the fourth quarter of last year and increasing demands for lower interest rate expenses for enterprises to enhance their international competitiveness. The fourth quarter economic growth is expected to be below 3 percent, the lowest rate in a decade.

Last year, the BOK officially rejected the Finance Ministry's demand to lower the rediscount rate, discouraging expectation that the government will come up with measures to stimulate the economy.

By rejecting the demand to cut the rediscount rate, the central bank was able to maintain the monetary target of 18.5 percent. However, the BOK may have to take responsibility for letting the economic growth rate fall below 3 percent.

The central bank had said a cut in the rediscount rate will not help enterprises lower their interest expenses and strengthen their competitive edge against foreign companies, because the cut will not bring lower bank lending rates.

The Finance Ministry has asked the BOK to lower the rediscount rates in order to give a "psychological boost" to the sagging economy rather than to cut bank lending rates dramatically.

The central bank said Korea needs to closely study its current economic conditions including the poor economic performance in the fourth quarter and added that it may lower the rediscount rate as one of the measures to stimulate the dormant economy.

The central bank's backdown could be construed as an indication that the central bank has admitted to the need for economy- stimulating measures.

"In case the new government adopts economy-boosting measures, the measures could go together with an interest rate deregulation as well as a lower rediscount rate," the BOK official said.

However, the central bank will be criticized over the timing of cutting the rediscount rate. It will not be able to escape the accusation that it is catering to the new government because the BOK is going to cut the rediscount rate at the time when the new administration starts operation late next month.

The BOK said the money market rates dropped as much as 6 percentage points last year mainly because of the stability-first economic policy, setting the stage for the government to implement the interest rate deregulation immediately.

"To cope with the changing economic environment outside and inside Korea, the financial sector must be liberalized as soon as possible. Now is the right time for the implementation of interest rate deregulation when the money market rates are hovering at low level," it said.

"With the falling money market rates, nobody could ensure that the interest rate deregulation will result in rising interest rates."

Yielding on the demand for the cut in the rediscount rate, the central bank is in return seeking to shorten the road to the implementation of the interest rate deregulation. It has adhered to its stance against the cut in rediscount rate at the expense of economic growth, now it is leaning toward economy- stimulating measures and interest rate deregulation at the expense of the rediscount rate.

People's Construction Bank of China To Open Seoul Office

SK1801095093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Office of Bank Supervision said Monday that it had given the People's Construction Bank of China permission to open an office in Seoul. The bank's Seoul office will be able to open in march. It is the second Chinese bank with a Seoul office after the Bank of China, which opened last August.

The state-run bank, born in 1954, specializes in finance services for development investments and keeps some 230,000 employees in its 4,161 home branches and an overseas office. It ranks fourth in China and 46th in the world with assets of 123.8 billion U.S. dollars.

Following the Korea Exchange Bank and the Korea Development Bank, the Export-Import Bank of Korea and Commercial Bank of Korea hope to open offices in Beijing and Shanghai, respectively.

Decrease in Letters of Credit Impacts Trade

SK1601023793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade is off to a shaky start this year with drops in arrivals of letters of credit (L/C) and issuances of import licenses (I/L), the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

Exports for the first two weeks were up 17.6 percent on Jan. 14 over a year earlier at 1,653 million U.S. dollars, compared with 1,405 million dollars. It was the first growth in three months. But L/C arrivals, which forecast future exports, were off 18.6 percent at 819 million dollars as of Jan. 10.

L/C arrivals dropped 1.7 percent in November for the first loss in 14 months and rebounded with a rise of 7.7 percent in December, the sources said. Imports shrank 2.8 percent to 2,936 million dollars during the 14 days from 3,021 million dollars in the same period last year.

The decline in imports reflects depressed facility investment due to the recession, the ministry said. Import licenses, an index for imports, plunged 17.3 percent to 1,056 million dollars in the first 10 days of this month from 1,276 million dollars in the same period last year.

The drops in the trade indices predict gloomy export-import performance this year, compared with rises of 16.2 percent and 21.4 percent in exports and imports, respectively, in January 1992. L/C arrivals posted a growth of 14.6 percent last year.

Government Confirms 12 Victims of Agent Orange

SK1601022293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency ruled Friday that 12 Korean veterans of the Vietnam war are victims of Agent Orange, a defoliant widely used by the U.S. Forces during the war. The agency had carried out thorough medical examinations of 238 possible victims of Agent Orange identified by the Defense Ministry, but cleared the chemical in 226 cases.

This is the first time the government has officially confirmed anyone as suffering from exposure to Agent Orange. Official recognition entitles the 12 to government compensation and regular medical checks.

Prosecution Lifts Travel Ban on Chong Chu-yong

SK1601034393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 16 (YONHAP)—The Seoul district prosecutor's office lifted Saturday the overseas travel ban on Chong Chu-yong, leader of the United People's Party, since he complied with its summons and answered questions in connection with alleged violations of the election law and abuse of corporate funds.

Chong was scheduled to leave the country Saturday afternoon for the United States to attend the inaugural ceremony of President Bill Clinton in Washington on Jan. 20. He is expected to stay in the United States and Japan until Feb. 5, according to party sources.

The travel ban was imposed after Chong had tried to sneak out of the country to Japan on Wednesday, one day after he was served with the summons.

Burma

ABSDF: Junta 'Afraid of Losing Control'

BK1801101693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] BANGKOK, Jan 18 (AFP)—Burmese student guerrillas said Monday the military government abruptly adjourned a constitutional convention in Rangoon last week because it was afraid of losing control of the mass meeting. The group, the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), also called, in a statement released here, for government troops to disobey the "handful of power-mad military leaders" currently in control and "stand on the side of the people".

In a surprise January 11 announcement, the Burmese junta adjourned the constitutional convention only two days after its long-awaited opening. Officials said the meeting was called off until February 1 to give the 699 delegates time to consult "people at home."

The ABSDF said the most likely reason was that the junta was "afraid of losing control of the national convention in front of diplomats attending as observers." Citing unidentified sources, the ABSDF said some of the political parties at the convention were preparing demands including negotiations to end long-running insurgencies and the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners. News that the delegates were preparing the demands leaked out, prompting the adjournment, the statement suggested.

"Adjournment of the national convention is just a trick to get some time for applying more intimidation and pressure on the political opposition until (the junta) thinks there is no more threat to their plot," it said.

The ABSDF was formed in 1988 by students who fled the cities after troops crushed a nationwide pro-democracy uprising. They joined ethnic minority guerrilla groups who for decades have been battling Rangoon for greater autonomy.

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy swept more than 80 percent of the parliamentary seats in the polls, including constituencies with numerous military personnel in their families. The junta ignored the poll result.

Diplomats: SLORC Prevented Protests

BK1901050493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0443 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 19 (AFP)—Two protestors slipped through a tight security net thrown over Rangoon for Burma's national constitutional convention, but were caught before they could carry out suicide threats in front of two embassies in the Burmese capital, diplomatic sources in Rangoon said.

The diplomats, who asked not to be identified, said Monday that one protestor, apparently a student, tried to stab himself in front of the U.S. embassy and another tried to set fire to himself in front of the Japanese embassy.

Both were whisked off by plainclothes security men before they could carry out their threats, but not before the two had called for the release of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi and condemned the convention as a farce, they said.

The diplomats and other Rangoon-based sources contacted by telephone from here said there had been no official confirmation of the incidents which took place 10 days ago.

Security was tight in Rangoon for the convention, which opened January 9 and closed unexpectedly two days later amid conflicting reports as to whether the abrupt 20-day adjournment had been forced by dissent among the delegates.

Burmese sources said some 30 students had been taken into preventive custody when the security net was thrown over sensitive sections of the city, and that extra security units had been stationed in, but not called out, in the city.

Similar measures, including a tight monitoring of individual movements, are taken by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, known as the SLORC, whenever a national event is staged, the sources said.

Meanwhile Rangoon's only newspaper, the Working People's Daily, Monday ran a front page article denying "rumors" that the abrupt 20-day adjournment of the convention until February 1 had been due to "a hitch."

The paper quoted Rangoon military governor Myo Thant, the official conference convenor, as repeating the official reason for the recess as to give delegates "sufficient time for study and preparation ... there was no hitch."

The rumors have varied from saying that hundreds of delegates objected to the hard line taken by the SLORC on the conference opening day in insisting the insistence that the military's role be inscribed in the constitution, to protests that they were to have been cooped up incommunicado for a month.

Some Rangoon-based diplomats have theorised that by saying the recess was for consultation purposes, it could have been ordered to forestall possible calls for a referendum on the guidelines drawn up by the convention.

The SLORC called the convention, ostensibly to introduce a multi-party system, two years after Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy swept national elections.

Suu Kyi, daughter of Burma's independence hero Aung San, was slapped under house arrest before the May 1990 elections, and remains closetted in her heavily guarded home.

In Bangkok Monday Burmese students living in exile issued a statement saying that the convention had been adjourned because SLORC was afraid of losing control of it.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) quoted unidentified sources as saying that some political parties represented at the meeting had been preparing demands including the release of Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and negotiations with the leaders of long-running insurgencies.

The jungle-based opposition, the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), January 13 released a similar statement saying the convention was probably adjourned because the junta feared it could not control the 699 delegates.

Rebels Invited To Surrender, Join Convention

BK1901152193 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The opening ceremony of the Special Refresher Training Course No. 4 for doctors was held at 0900 today at Ohndaw Hall of the Central Institute of Public Services in Hlegu Township. Major General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the National Health Committee and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, attended the ceremony and delivered an address. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the special refresher training courses for doctors, who are always in contact with the public and whom the people depend upon, were held after the completion of refresher training courses for university teachers. He noted these courses were opened to distribute new ideas and views with the hope that doctors, whom the people admire and respect, will be able to enlighten the people about the true facts and true situations that should be made known to them. He explained that the course is intended to develop the nationalistic spirit, to implement the three national causes [nondisintegration of the union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty], the management of public health, supervision, and discipline. [passage omitted]

He stressed that this is the period where the National Convention, which is considered as a milestone in the annals of Myanmar [Burmese] history, is being held in order to lay down the basic principles for drawing the constitution. Khin Nyunt noted that the National Convention was convened on 9 January and the National Convention Convening Commission explained the six objectives and the procedures to be followed. He also noted that the Work Committee for Convening the National Convention explained in detail the main topics to be discussed in drawing a constitution and the nature of international constitutions. Khin Nyunt next explained that in order to allow the delegates to study the basic facts more completely and the delegates from political parties to be able to discuss with their party masses if they so desire, the National Convention has been recessed till 31 January and will be reconvened on 1 February. [passage omitted]

Continuing, the secretary-1 remarked that the population distribution of the national races in the states and divisions evidently shows that there is no dominant national race in any state and division and that the national races are intermingled and coexist in all the states and divisions. Khin Nyunt then urged all the people to join hands and defend the unity and goodwill among the national races from the instigations, temptations, and disturbances generated by the insurgents and national traitors.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt explained that the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] government, the defense services, in view of national unity among all the national races, has not only halted the offensives against the terrorist insurgents but has also created desirable conditions for them to join the National Convention if they give up their armed struggle and return to the legal fold. But, he said, some terrorist insurgent organizations and some convicted persons who have been fleeing from the hand of the law, have neglected SLORC's goodwill and are making efforts to undermine the National Convention in which they are not included. Khin Nyunt then went on to say, whatever may happen, since these terrorist insurgents are our citizens, they are always welcomed with open arms to join in this National Convention if they give up their armed struggle and return to the legal fold. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1 explained that although the local populace and the government have been implementing local regional development activities with mutual consent and working hand in hand, some internal and external organizations, who harbor ill will against Myanmar and are intent on disintegrating the union, are still instigating to destroy national unity. [passage omitted]

Finally, Khin Nyunt urged the doctor trainees to study and understand the national health objectives; to study with the aim of taking a leading role in fulfilling the noble desires such as the three main objectives and to always keep alive the nationalistic spirit among the people; to study, with a clear conscience, the defense services' noble achievements to enable its participation in the national political leadership role of the future state; and to work loyally and carry out duties consciously for the emergence of a strong and firm constitution. The opening ceremony concluded at 1030. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

King, Premier Congratulate Clinton

BK2101090893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0835 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Yang Dipertuan Agung (the Malaysian King), Sultan Azlan Shah, has expressed hope that the relationship between Malaysia and the United States of America will be further strengthened under the leadership of President Bill Clinton.

He said this in his congratulatory message to Clinton on his inauguration as the 42nd president of the United States Wednesday.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, in his message, expressed hope that Clinton's leadership would open new avenues for the enhancement of bilateral ties between the two nations. He hoped the leadership of both nations could work together to achieve this.

Commentary Views Allied Attacks on Iraq

BK1901132393 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is indeed amazing the speed at which the U.S.-led coalition forces have attacked Iraq three times in less than a week. Missiles apparently homed at military sites have killed civilians in the process. Yet the United Nations seems to condone such actions. If this is not the case, then it is helpless to stop whatever the United States—now the world's only superpower—wants to do.

Questions arise as to whether Iraq's defiance and violation of Gulf War cease-fire terms warranted such a swift military response. But the fact stands that after the two-year-old Gulf War, Iraq is happily ready to embark on another military adventure. Compared with the civil unrest and atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina, what Iraq did was merely provocative. Negotiations could have been held to solve problems relating to violations of the cease-fire. After all, it did give him the motive to have all its nuclear sites inspected and handlers of its warheads destroyed.

Could not the United Nations use the military might at its service to try and solve the prolonged conflict in the former Yugoslavia? It looks like the world body has got its priorities wrong, either that, or it is under control by the United States. Therefore, it is clear that what the United States wants to do, it does it under the guise of the United Nations. Constant attacks on Iraq would only serve to destabilize the region. No doubt, Iraq invaded Kuwait and started the whole mess. But a chance should be given for the countries in the region to come to peaceful solution. Negotiations could be used to solve the issues, but as long as the United States is around, its military presence will prevent any genuine effort toward peace by countries in the region.

In two years, it is becoming clear that the United States has continued to maintain a military presence in the region. Could it be said the United States wants to have a permanent presence here? Even if it makes its intention clear, there is no other superpower left to check it. On the other hand, Iraq should not continue testing the Western alliance in the use of their military power. Its main job should be to get the 30-month UN economic embargo lifted so that its people could gain access to many amenities that have been denied to them.

Having come so far there is no reason why Iraq cannot comply fully with UN sanctions and demands. Then again the demand of the United Nations has to be fair and reasonable, and not be influenced to serve the selfish interests of the Western powers.

What is important now for Iraq is to adopt a more pacifist posture. It should continue to highlight the plight of the Iraqis who have been deprived essential goods. This will serve as a more persuasive tactic, but a confrontational stand will do Iraq no good. Countries such as the United States with their unrivaled military might, are only waiting for excuses to intervene. Iraq gave it to them last week. Rather than asking for more trouble, the country should look to rebuild its economy and bring peace to within its borders and with its neighbors. This is something President Saddam Husayn should seriously consider. Otherwise, the Iraqi people would be condemned to a life of continued harassment and misery, something everbody could do without.

Iraq Urged To Take 'Conciliatory' Posture

BK180112[illegible]93 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Jan 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Please Do Not Push"]

[Text] There is nothing really offensive about President Saddam Hussayn's recent moves: the halting of UN flights; several cross-border scavenging and salvage operations in Kuwait; the continued existence of half-a-dozen Iraqi police posts in Kuwait territory; flights into the no-flight zones established to protect dissident Kurds in the north and Shi'ite Muslims in the south, and occasional antiaircraft fire at coalition planes as a symbolic gesture of defiance; the shuffling and shuttling of missiles that may pose a more lethal threat to coalition planes.

These moves are basically niggling: teasing, taunting tweaking of the nose a kid, except the world knows that Iraqi kids can play rough. Yes, an Iraqi jet was blasted out of the sky recently and the will-of-the-wisp threat of the missiles must never be discounted, but Baghdad is hardly ready to embark on another military adventure.

Instead, the manoeuvrings in recent weeks seem to be merely provocative gestures to see if the restraints against Iraq have been relaxed, to see if the rest of the world is distracted by more pressing demands from Bosnia and Somalia, to test the extent of peoples' reluctance to get into another shootout.

If that is the context governing Baghdad's posturing, it is reading the mood wrong. The Western powers are reluctant to get involved in the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina because it will be no turkey-shoot. Instead of targets visibly hunkered in the barrenness of sand, fighting in Bosnia will mean going into the wooded hills to flush out fighters whose fathers and grandfathers fought the Nazi forces to a bloody stalemate in the same hills. To take on passionate defenders on their home turf of rough, craggy terrain is daunting. Gulf Storm showed that Iraq, for all its chestpounding over launching a rain of missiles and chemicals, could be swept back easily, the exposed terrain giving free rein to superior firepower.

Yes, there is no real desire to use a big club on Iraq again, but just one incident going too far in its series of symbolic gestures of defiance can prompt a pounding retaliation, as the recent clobbering of Iraqi air-defences clearly illustrates.

What is so satisfactory about being difficult over every issue, retreating reluctantly and inviting retaliation, when compliance is inevitable? First, announce a halting of UN flights into Iraq. Get the United Nations worked up sufficiently to set deadlines and issue threats. Then retreat half a step and say that the United Nations is free to fly in, but Iraq is absolving itself of any responsibility for the safety of UN personnel. Does that make the issue go away? No, because the United Nations wants the safety of the weapons inspectors and their flights guaranteed or Iraq can expect a thundering of planes swooping in over the horizon and sand dunes. Unless President Saddam is possessed suddenly by a feverish brainstorm, it is probable that Iraq will comply eventually with UN demands.

But if President Saddam were to turn conciliatory, if he were to present a more benign demeanour to the world, Iraq would give more problems to those advocating that the international embargo against Iraq be continued.

Not that President Clinton will be more amenable than President Bush, not even after Clinton's remarks about a willingness to consider a different relationship with Iraq should Saddam Hussayn show a new-found congeniality. The minor fuss that developed over Clinton's fairly innocuous remarks show that many Americans are more comfortable with the idea of Saddam as an ogre, and it is unlikely that the next U.S. President will rush into an embrace with his Iraqi counterpart in the immediate future.

But certainly a pacifist posture coupled with more moaning over the plight of Iraqis being deprived of essential goods will be more persuasive than the current brinksmanship, which may be good for one's machismo but dangerous should Baghdad miscalculate its limits.

Ramos Visit, Sabah Issue Viewed

BK1901135493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "The Sabah Issue"]

[Text] President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines is due to pay an official visit to Malaysia toward the end of this month. The government and people of Malaysia will accord him a warm welcome in keeping with local tradition and customs. Malaysia values the ties of friendship with all the ASEAN member states.

Recent news reports have mentioned that the Philippine president will drop the old claim to Sabah. That issue, which has lingered on for three decades, is a strange and somewhat preposterous territorial claim. It is regarded by many as the sole irritant in relations between Malaysia and the Philippines. From time to time, it looks as though the entire claim will be dropped, but some members of the legislature seem intent on keeping the issue alive.

The Malaysian Government's stand has been clear and consistent—Sabah is a part of Malaysia and the people themselves signified their decision in an electoral exercise when Malaysia was mooted in the period 1961 to 1963. Further, at all subsequent elections, they voted for parties that support Sabah's integration with Malaysia. It will be in the true spirit of ASEAN ideals if President Ramos were to take the long overdue step to declare that Manila does recognize Sabah as a state within Malaysia.

Meanwhile, press reports have highlighted a statement by the sultan of Sulu who lives in the Philippines. He had asked for the recognition of his claim to sovereignty over Sabah. He has also put forward a claim to certain town of (?Mali). It is also interesting to note that this sultan does not want Manila to interfere. In other words, he feels he should be reinstituted as the sultan of Sabah and neither Kuala Lumpur nor Manila must interfere. It is certain that the people of Sabah treat this as a ridiculous claim. Under any test of international law, Sabah remains Malaysian territory.

The well-worn criterion of continuous and peaceful display of sovereignty is satisfied. It is also a fact that there is no sign of any desire on the part of people in Sabah to want to join the Philippines. Indeed, the flow of people is in the other direction—many thousands of Filipinos would like to enter Sabah in search of lucrative employment. Some are illegal immigrants. Therefore, this type of claim is really a waste of time. In previous centuries, kings and princes had absolute powers. They could sign away country belonging to them to another king or prince. The common people had to accept the change of status. They ceased to be subjects of one and became subjects of another monarch. Today, the UN

Charter and all civilized nations of law talk of self-determination of people. No people can be simply signed away like that and, that too, to a feudal individual.

It would be in the interests of good Malaysian-Philippine relations if President Ramos is to drop every shred of claim to Sabah.

Singapore

Minister Cautions Clinton on Democracy Push

BK1901151493 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Summary from poor reception] The senior minister has said that it will be a mistake for the incoming U.S. president-elect, Mr. Bill Clinton, to make a strong push for democracy and human rights in Asia. In an interview with REUTER, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said such a move would hurt the United States. Mr. Lee said China and Indonesia could not be made to change overnight. But he said Mr. Clinton ought to use U.S. leverage on trade and security issues to open markets and sell more to East Asia. This will help both sides of the Pacific to develop. Mr. Lee said Mr. Clinton would have to decide what his priorities are—economics or politics. If it is economics, Mr. Clinton should not meddle with the situation by bringing in the politics of democracy and human rights and pressing it too hard. Mr. Lee said it would upset economic growth in East Asia.

In the interview, Mr. Lee also touched on religious violence in India. He said it would pose a serious threat to the country. Mr. Lee said what India needed were development, education, and living standards that made life meaningful.

Mr. Lee also spoke on the condition of Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong. Gen. Lee was responding well to the therapy, but doctors remained concerned about the extent of the ailment.

Chinese Paper Disappointed With Miyazawa Visit

OW1801074593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Singapore, Jan. 18 KYODO—Singapore's leading Chinese-language daily said Monday Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's Southeast Asian trip did not help to much change the region's deep-seated distrust of Japan but conceded that Japan and the rest of Asia must coexist.

While rapping Miyazawa for not expressing full and sincere repentance for Japan's World War II aggression during last week's tour, the LIANHE ZAOBAO said the region cannot afford to ignore Japan, "whose influence in Asia will continue to grow, and which will increasingly be an important member of the region although it cannot act as a regional policeman.

"Southeast Asia will have to coexist with Japan, and Japan too will have to be more sensitive toward the region's hopes and aspirations," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Miyazawa last week visited Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei—which are four of the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The group also includes Singapore and the Philippines.

But the daily expressed disappointment that Miyazawa did not express fuller repentance for the suffering inflicted by Japanese troops when Japan invade neighboring Asian countries in World War II.

"Those countries which had been subjected to bullying and humiliation by Japan all hope that Japan could express real repentance and sincerity when admitting past misdeeds, but Miyazawa's words did not contain anything concrete or specific, and were not explicit," it said, referring to Miyazawa's speech in Bangkok on Japan's foreign policy toward the region.

"We're afraid it will not eliminate Asian people's suspicion of Japan's sincerity," it said. "Similar words had been uttered before by other Japanese premiers" and Miyazawa's pledge that Japan will not return to militarism "is nothing new."

The newspaper said recent matters such as the Japanese handling of the "comfort women" issue—the government refuses to pay the compensation demanded by Asian women who claim they were forced into prostitution by Japanese troops during the war—have hardened the region's view that Japan is "evasive and equivocal" about the past.

Commenting on Miyazawa's proposal for an international forum to map out a development strategy for the reconstruction of Indochina, the daily said Japan will no doubt reap economic gains for itself from the plan.

Cambodia

KR Reportedly Continues To Violate Truce

BK1401061093 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0420 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 14 Jan (SPK)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] (Democratic Kampuchea) continued to violate the cease-fire in some sectors of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Kampot, and Kompong Thom Provinces at the beginning of January, according to the sources close to the Commission for Military Affairs Coordination with the United Nations.

For instance, at 2100 on 3 January, the Khmer Rouge fired 20 H-107 shells on Ta Yek village on coordinates V.V.69/10, Sot Nikum district, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

At 0530 on 5 January, they pounded with 75-mm and 82-mm DK cannons the sector of Boeng Thom on coordinates V.V.58/15, Kien Sangke commune, Sot Nukum district, same province.

At 1930 on 4 January, the guerrillas infiltrated the commune of Khcheay, Dang Tong district, Kampot Province, and abducted two inhabitants, including a village head. On the same day, they killed a member of the local militia of Sre Chea commune, Dang Tong district, same province.

At 2200 on 4 January, a number of Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 417 raided a hospital in Dong township on coordinates W.U.72/19, Chong Dong commune, Baray district, Kompong Thom Province, and destroyed a quantity of medicines and medical equipment.

14 Jan Military Meeting Atmosphere 'Tense'

BK1801080293 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] The 29th meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group, scheduled to be held in Battambang Province on the morning of 14 January, was instead held on the afternoon of the same day at UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] High Command in Phnom Penh under chairmanship of UNTAC Military Commander Major General John Sanderson. It is particularly aimed at resolving the key issues in eight places, which recently occurred in Battambang Province, in the Dei Sar area and Bavel village, and in the Route 10 sector; and discussing the release of war prisoners. The discussion proceeded in a tense and thorny atmosphere.

Major General John Sanderson expressed unhappiness over the Khmer Rouge faction's groundless accusation that UNTAC officials of all sectors and at all levels involved in and assisted the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s armed forces in attacking the Khmer Rouge forces.

John Sanderson criticized Khmer Rouge representative for always seeking pretexts to jeopardize the meeting.

The UNTAC military commander stressed that the unconstructive statements that the Khmer Rouge faction always raised at every meeting to serve as an obstacle to the search for ending the war in Cambodia clearly showed the faction's attempt to avoid implementation of the Paris agreement. No matter how UNTAC has tried to help pull them up, the Khmer Rouge have still made every effort to plunge themselves into the hole they dug.

Lieutenant General Phuong Siphan, representative of the SOC's armed forces, spoke on the implementation of the right to self- defense in line with the UNTAC announcement that each faction should use in case of violations by other factions. It is certainly necessary for the SOC armed forces to defend the people from violations by the Khmer Rouge faction. This is because from the end of 1992 to the beginning of January 1993, over 20,000 Cambodian people at Kdei Ta Hen and Bavel in Battambang Province were compelled to leave their houses due to Khmer Rouge attacks.

Lt. Gen. Phuong Siphan announced that the SOC side would withdraw troops from Dei Sar area if the Khmer Rouge did likewise and then hand over the control of this area, including the question of release of war prisoners captured by Khmer Rouge, to UNTAC.

The goodwilled and constructive proposal of the representative of the SOC's armed forces was fully supported by the UNTAC military commander. But the Khmer Rouge representative who has never had any right to make a decision said that he would ask his superior to decide and wait for an order.

At this fruitless meeting, Mr. John Sanderson told the Khmer Rouge representative to immediately report on the discussion to his superior so as to quickly settle the key issues in Battambang Province. At the same time, John Sanderson rejected the accusation in the statement by the Khmer Rouge representative and suggested that the latter report this situation back to his superior.

The UNTAC military commander also denounced the Khmer Rouge attack against UNTAC election personnel—a very cowardly attack—made on the night of 12 January in Angkrang village, Siem Reap province, resulting in the death of two women; two civilians and two UNTAC policemen were also wounded.

NADK General Addresses Meeting

BK1801050493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting of the four-party Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Military Commander John Sanderson was held on 14 January to discuss the tense situation in Battambang Province.

Speaking at the meeting, General Khieu Sophon, representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in the MMWG, emphasized the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]'s stand as follows:

I. The NADK's stand has been clearly emphasized in the statement dated 10 January 1993 of the NADK spokesman.

II. The NADK representative added: the situation has worsened since the signing of the Paris agreement because:

A. UNTAC has not correctly implemented the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement according to its essence. Everyone is well aware of this fact. In his statements and letters to Mr. Akashi dated 13 and 14 December 1992 and 4 and 7 January 1993, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], clearly charged that UNTAC, Yuon, and Phnom Penh puppets have not implemented the Paris agreement and that UNTAC must be held fully responsible for the fact that Yuon war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia has not ended. UNTAC has not restored independence, peace, and neutrality to Cambodia nor has it brought about a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia. Moreover, UNTAC has allowed Yuon and Yuon puppets to commit all sorts of cruel acts and crimes against Cambodian people and various political parties, particularly FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party.

B. Not only has UNTAC failed to implement 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, but it has implemented a fake agreement to allow Yuon and the Yuon puppet regime to carry on their aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

These are the root causes and original sources of big and small problems that have taken place successively and will further arise continuously.

C. The NADK representative in the MMWG went on to explain thoroughly about concrete activities attesting to UNTAC's direct involvement in the operations launched by Yuon and their puppets on Bavel and Route 10 battlefields. He said that in these operations, UNTAC has provided Yuon and puppet soldiers with money, uniforms, and war materiel. Some UNTAC officials have sought information on NADK's whereabouts. Some UNTAC leaders in Battambang Province have even taken part in commanding and giving encouragement to the forward command of Phnom Penh puppets. During the fight, whenever the Yuon and puppets were exhausted, some UNTAC officials would go by car or helicopter to the fighting ground to get information about NADK for the Yuon and their puppets so as to save them from being routed. Moreover, UNTAC has allowed the Yuon and their puppets to transport convoys of troops, tanks, cannons, multiple rocket launchers, and ammunition through national highways, populated areas, and cities in everyone's view.

In such a condition, how can the worsening situation be alleviated?

D. The NADK representative informed the participants that to resolve this situation, the UNTAC must turn to correctly implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly the following important points:

1. The SNC must be given the role as the sole legitimate body and source of power during the transitional period.

2. UNTAC must cooperate with the SNC in running the five key ministries.

3. UNTAC must cooperate with the SNC in verifying the withdrawal of all categories of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia.

SRV, 'Puppets,' UNTAC Accused of Terrorism

BK1601074893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] At a recent news conference in Phnom Penh, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], stated that now political terrorism, fascism, and assassinations against the people and various political parties are widespread across Cambodia. The prince said during the last two months, more than 20 FUNCINPEC party members were assassinated and many others were wounded in the political terrorism, adding that those responsible for the above political terrorist and fascist acts and cruel assassinations are the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors, Yuon puppets, and UNTAC chieftains. He made it clear that the group responsible for the great crimes is the Yuon puppets, including Chea Sim, Hun Sen, Sar Kheng, Sin Song, Battambang provincial chief Ung Sami, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, and so on. The prince did not mention the responsible people within UNTAC by name; yet foreign diplomats and observers, keeping an eye on the accord's implementation and knowing the Cambodian situation inside out, said UNTAC chieftains such as Messrs. Akashi and Sanderson are accountable for the political terrorism in Cambodia.

In his statement dated 23 December 1992, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, clearly indicated that those responsible for causing Cambodia to lose its independence, peace, and territorial integrity and to be exposed to political terrorism, fascism, and assassinations against the people and various political parties are the Yuon, their puppets, and the UNTAC chieftains.

The Cambodian people have endured sufferings and devastation due to the Yuon war of aggression for 14 years. The Cambodian people have clearly seen that the violent actions and assassinations committed by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets against the people and various political parties in Cambodia at present have ensued from the UNTAC chieftains' not implementing the Paris 23 October 1991 accord correctly and meticulously. The Cambodian victims wanting to have peace and independence resolutely demand that UNTAC correctly and meticulously effect the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, especially the following indispensable clauses:

1. UNTAC must give a role to the SNC. This is to enable the council to carry out its tasks as the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period.

2. UNTAC must cooperate with the SNC in controlling and verifying the withdrawal of all categories of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn.

3. UNTAC must cooperate with the SNC in running the five important ministries.

Call for Accord's Implementation Reiterated

BK1901080793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT GMT 18 Jan 93

["Address by the representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea at the meeting of the Naval Branch of the Mixed Military Working Group on 15 January 1993"—read by announcer]

[Text] On 15 January there was a meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG], Naval Branch, on the issue of Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. At this meeting, General Tep Sokun, representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in the MMWG, Naval Branch, made a speech pointing out that there are two clauses in the Paris agreement dealing with Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and unity. These clauses clearly say:

1. Article 1, paragraph 1: Other signatories of the Paris agreement solemnly pledge to recognize and fully respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, inviolability, neutrality, and national unity of Cambodia.

Cambodia's territorial integrity consists of land and maritime borders internationally recognized before 18 March 1970. All Cambodian parties have unanimously agreed on the pre-1970 borders.

2. Article 1, paragraph 2 of the same agreement also says that all agreements, which are incompatible with Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, inviolability, neutrality, and national unity, should be terminated.

The NADK representative says that therefore, Vietnam, which has signed this agreement, should abide by and implement these two clauses.

Concerning Cambodia's borders in relation to the two clauses of the above agreement, I would like to attach documents on principles, dated 15 November 1992, of the technical consultative committee in order to discuss the issue relating to Cambodia's land and maritime borders. I would also like to draw your attention to the map, namely the map of Indochina, scale 1/100,000, printed by France's Geography Department in 1954.

The address by the NADK further says:

In accordance with the letter and spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, and in the spirit of national reconciliation, we will have to firmly adhere to the four-party principle. For this reason, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] would like to suggest that this four-party principle be implemented in areas where UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has been deployed and where UNTAC will be deployed. Furthermore, in the naval framework, this will include the control of vessels, organization, and training of personnel.

In particular, our work in the naval sector cannot be separated from the general situation of the implementation of the Paris agreement. The future of the process to implement the Paris agreement is in complete darkness. This has a direct bearing on our naval task, as reflected in this meeting's report. What is the cause of all these difficulties?

This is because the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors continue to occupy Cambodia through the regime they have installed. This is because Vietnam has annexed Cambodian territory. This is because the Yuon have not allowed anyone to check their presence. All this is done with the collusion of UNTAC leaders who have altered the Paris agreement.

The NADK representative says: In order for our naval task to proceed with efficiency, as well as for the peace process to move forward, the Paris agreement should first be correctly and meticulously implemented, particularly the following major points:

1. Give a role to the Supreme National Council [SNC] so that it can carry out its task as the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;
2. UNTAC and the SNC should cooperate in verifying that all types of Yuon aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that they do not return;
3. UNTAC and the SNC should cooperate in controlling five major ministries.

If these necessary conditions cannot be fulfilled, all efforts would be unsuccessful.

FUNCINPEC Office Attacker 'Not' CPP Member

BK1501143593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] At 1945 on 11 January, five drunken persons struck at and pulled down the sign of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party office in Baphnum district, Prey Veng Province, and then proceeded to tear up a number of posters inside that office. UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Civilian Police of Baphnum district immediately intervened and arrested a person as the four others fled the scene.

At 2000 the same night UNTAC Civilian Police impounded the arrested individual at the Baphnum District police station without any written notice. The suspect then escaped when he came out of his state of inebriation.

According to the investigation of the competent authorities, the person who was arrested by UNTAC Civilian

Police is not a member of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], nor is he an official of the State of Cambodia faction as claimed by some people and some foreign media. In reality, his name is Ven. He is 31 years old and is an ordinary citizen. On the day the incident took place, this person returned from cutting firewood. Following a drinking bout, he and his friends committed the above act. After escaping from the Baphnum district police station where UNTAC Civilian Police put him, Ven fled without leaving any trace. The competent authorities are now tracking him down in order to bring him before the law.

KR Claims 'Puppets' Bombed UN House 15 Jan

BK2001022093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Reliable sources in Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong Province, say that on 15 January secret police of the Yuon [Vietnamese] and puppets—codenamed the X squad—bombed a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] house and the office of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia in Srea Ambel.

This is another great crime of the Yuon aggressors and puppets and traitors to the nation, who have been carrying out political terrorist and fascist activities to murder people, political parties, and UNTAC. These activities are spreading in cities and rural areas nationwide. [passage omitted]

Release of Seven Political Detainess Reported

BK2001040893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Despite the fact that some parties, the Khmer Rouge in particular, still refuse to take part in the implementation of the agreement and have grossly committed violations against the State of Cambodia [SOC] party, and based on a goodwill spirit to implement the accord and the stance to reconcile the nation and for peace in Cambodia, our SOC has made countless concessions to other parties aimed at creating a neutral political atmosphere and mutual trust prior to elections.

In fact, on 15 January 1993 at the Military Prosecutor's office of the National Defense Ministry, a ceremony was held to release seven detainees who are political prisoners from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. The ceremony was presided over by Khieu Kanharit, adviser to the SOC prime minister and member of the secretariat of the Supreme National Council [SNC]; Brigadier General [Brig. Gen.] Sau Sok, head of the Prosecutor's Office of the National Defense Ministry; Som Chankorn, head of the LDP office; and representatives of state authority, relevant institutions, and of international organizations. On this occasion, Brig. Gen. Sau Sok spoke stressing the fine intention and goodwill of the party and SOC Government, which have made successive concessions to the correct implementation of the Paris agreement for peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia. At this time, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and our SOC Government have agreed in principle to the release of seven political prisoners to allow them to return to society and the nation and to have a family life like our other citizens.

It should be noted that the seven wrongdoers, released by our party and government, are formerly persons who have served the LDP by planting explosives, distributing leaflets, and creating confusion and unrest causing the loss of stability and order in Phnom Penh. They were arrested by our state authority and competent forces in 1990-91. The seven detainees were:

1. Ben Sophari, male, aged 31;
2. U Sakhun, aged 34;
3. Pech Hon, aged 34;
4. Chhuo Bannara, aged 28;
5. Say Tangleng, aged 26;
6. Van Samoeun, aged 37; and
7. Peou Thi, aged 25.

After Major Keo Sovanna, representing the Military Prosecutor's Office, read the document on the release to the seven detainees, Khieu Kanharit spoke clearly specifiying the stance of the SOC Government of wanting peace by ending the conflict and civil war. In the past, a number of our compatriots had been taken in by the deceitful propaganda of members of some parties and who had served these people until they were arrested by our competent service. However, due to a comprehensive view, political line, goodwill, and genuine national reconciliation of the party and the SOC Government, we have always paid attention to the life and interest of the country, nation, and people.

Afterward, representatives of the LDP and international human rights organizations expressed joy and great thanks for the goodwill of the party and SOC Government in implementing no more and no less the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

At the end of the ceremony, a representative of the detainees admitted their activities and wrongdoing in the past and expressed joy over their release by the party and SOC Government.

Sihanouk's Wife Leaves for Beijing 16 Jan

BK1601055493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] At 0800 on 16 January at Pochentong airport, the royal consort left for Beijing, China on board a special plane of the State of Cambodia [SOC].

Accompanying the royal consort on this occasion were His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee [CPP CC] and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his wife; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, standing member of the CPP CC and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Sok An, member of the CPP CC, deputy interior minister, and chief of the CPP CC office.

Among those seeing off the royal consort were H.E. Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP CC and chairman of the SOC Council of State, and his wife; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP CC, chairman of both the National Assembly and the front's National Council; H.E. Chea Soth, standing member of the CPP CC; H.E. Sar Kheng, standing member of the CPP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and interior minister; H.E. Say Chhum, standing member of the CPP CC and standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, standing member of the CPP CC and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. General Tie Banh, standing member of the CPP CC, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister; H.E. Mat Ly, standing member of the CPP CC and vice chairman of the National Assembly; H.E. Nguon Nhel, standing member of the CPP CC and agriculture minister; H.E. Ney Pena, standing member of the CPP CC and vice chairman of the Control Commission of the CPP CC; H.E. Gen. Sin Song, standing member of CPP CC and national security minister; H.E. Gen. Ke Kimyan, standing member of the CPP CC, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; and many ministers, deputy ministers, directors general, and deputy directors general from all state establishments.

On this occasion, H.E. Yasushi Akashi, chief of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]; H.E. Fu Xuezhang, PRC ambassador to Cambodia; and their excellencies ambassadors and diplomats form various countries accredited to Cambodia, were also present to see off the royal consort at Pochentong airport.

Furthermore, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party; and H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and colleagues were also present on this occasion.

Two Vietnamese Colonels Reportedly Killed

BK1901075193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Reliable sources in Battambang town say that 1,000 Yuon [Vietnamese] soldiers dressed in the uniforms of puppet special police and special troops have been searching houses of people in Battambang town, accusing the latter of killing two Yuon colonels on 9 January.

The reports say that the two Yuon colonels were in charge of the Yuon and puppet forces in Battambang and in the entire fifth region. One of the colonels was in charge of the M-3 secret police and the X murder squad whose tasks are to spy and eliminate people and various political parties in Battambang Province. The other colonel was in charge of military affairs and preparations of offensive plans against Cambodian national resistance forces on the battlefields in Bavel district and on Route 10.

Immediately after the death of the two colonels, the Yuon unleashed 1,000 of their troops to search and rob people. This has further enraged the people in Battambang who are angry with the Yuon and their puppets and also with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

The people say now the Yuon are coming out in broad daylight, why does UNTAC not arrest them? The people explain that this is because UNTAC has sided with the Yuon. That explains the constant confusion and unrest in Battambang Province. [passage omitted]

Akashi Warns KR Over Election Registration

BK2001014093 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 15—The Chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Yasushi Akashi warned the radical Khmer Rouge Monday [KR] to decide before the end of the month whether they wanted to take part in elections, reports AFP.

Akashi said after meeting with President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas that the Khmer Rouge had very little time left to decide.

In Phnom Penh, the United Nations said the Khmer Rouge had until January 27 to sign up their candidates for elections, expected before May according to a peace treaty signed in Paris.

More than 90 percent of Cambodians had been registered by UNTAC, Akashi said after leaving the presidential palace.

"We will comply with the Security Council resolution and it will become exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for (the Khmer Rouge) to join the process afterward," Akashi vowed.

Akashi added that once the general elections were held, they would concern 85 percent of Cambodian territory and between 92 and 93 percent of the population there, which would allow the United Nations to declare the balloting valid.

Alatas Activities, Peace Prospects Viewed

BK2001014893 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1113 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 19—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas set out on a whirlwind tour this week to secure, with or without the Khmer Rouge, what can be salvaged from the Paris peace accords on Cambodia, reports AFP.

His counterparts in Thailand and Australia, Prasong Sunsiri and Gareth Evans, are expected to catch up with him at some point in his diplomatic odyssey from Beijing to Bangkok and Phnom Penh.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued a joint statement Friday pressing for a presidential election in Cambodia before the U.N.-run legislative elections scheduled for May.

The Paris peace accords did not include any proposals for a presidential election, but U.N. Security Council Resolution 792, issued in November 1992, empowered the U.N. Secretary General to examine the possibility for such an election.

Yasushi Akashi, who heads the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), was in Jakarta on Monday for talks with Indonesian President Suharto and Alatas, before the foreign minister's departure for Beijing [for] a meeting with Prince Sihanouk Tuesday.

Akashi has given the Khmer Rouge until January 27 to take part in the U.N.-run elections.

"I very much hope that the Khmer Rouge will still decide to rejoin the process and participate in the elections, but time is quickly running out," he told journalists after the Jakarta talks.

He also said the Khmer Rouge had not yet officially assented to the proposed presidential elections in Cambodia.

A Western diplomat has pointed out that the United States and Britain were initially hostile to the idea of a presidentail election (?saying) the plan violated the spirit if not the letter of the Paris peace accords.

According to Akashi, however, a number of countries believe such an election would improve stability in the country and the peace accord should be "adapted."

The Western diplomat warned of the dangers of electing a head of state without stipulating what power such a position would involve.

Prince Sihanouk sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger Friday saying that he wanted to assume all powers now held by the United Nations in the country if he won proposed presidential elections.

Akashi, before being informed of the letter, said it was first for the Supreme National Council (SNC) which groups all the warring factions and is headed by Sihanouk to discuss the issue at their meeting on January 28 in Beijing.

Ranariddh Marches Against Rights Violations

BK1801120693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 18 (AFP)—The head of a Cambodian political party that has recently lost up to 20 members to political violence led a silent march to the U.N. human rights office Monday to demand action.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party loyal to his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk, led more than a dozen family members of assassinated party workers plus other supporters on a half-block march from his party headquarters to the U.N. office.

"I am very very worried because we are now with only four months left before the election," he said.

"These acts of aggression, meticulously premeditated, organized and executed by a rival political organization, were intended not only to physically eliminate members of our party, but also to terrorize the entire population in order to dissuade it from supporting, and on election day, voting for the FUNCINPEC party," he said.

Prince Ranariddh said the victims, totalling 20 in the last two months, were guilty only of trusting that the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) could bring political freedom to this country. He met with UNTAC human rights director Dennis McNamara and asked for specific measures to prevent such attacks in the future.

McNamara told reporters later that his response was to tell Prince Ranariddh that U.N. officials were not responsible for the violence, and that such demonstrations should be addressed to the Phnom Penh government authorities who are responsible for law and order in Cambodia.

"UNTAC could not usurp it, take it over from the authorities," McNamara said, noting that UNTAC had recently given peacekeepers the powers of arrest to try to halt political crimes after Phnom Penh authorities refused to take action.

"It's easy enough to say what's UNTAC doing about it. Let's ask the authorities what they're doing about it," he said.

Phnom Penh 'Forcibly' Conscripting Soldiers

BK1901100893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 19 (AFP)—A faction in opposition to the Phnom Penh regime has charged that government armed forces forcibly conscripted 30 soldiers despite the peace plan ending the country's civil war.

A Phnom Penh Government spokesman, however, denied the accusation at a press conference Tuesday.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) headed by former Prime Minister Son Sann said in its weekly bulletin that government soldiers forcibly conscripted 30 men in Cambodia's western Battambang Province.

The men were taken from a video parlor and from their houses in the nighttime action in the village of Snoeng, the KPNLF said quoting sources who escaped the conscription.

"The sources also said those people had to pay a lot of money to escape," the KP BULLETIN said.

The bulletin charged that the government planned to conscript 4,000 men from each district in the province, plus additional men from Siem Reap Province. Both areas have been the scene of recent fighting between Phnom Penh Government forces and the Khmer Rouge.

"The people now are scared and criticize UNTAC for not taking action to defend their human rights not to be killed by war," the KP BULLETIN said.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has been forced to abandon its mission to disarm all Cambodian soldiers and demobilize 70 percent of them according to the peace plan because [of] non-cooperation by the Khmer Rouge.

Phnom Penh Government senior adviser and Deputy Minister Uch Kim An denied that any recruitment or conscription of soldiers had occurred.

He said that conversely, the government had tried to demobilize soldiers in line with the peace plan.

Opposition parties were making up the allegations to cover up their own recruitment activities, Uch Kim An said.

Government military spokesman General Phan Thay added: "We do not have any plan at all to recruit the people to become soldiers."

5 Apr Date for Presidential Election Proposed

BK2001011993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The government in Phnom Penh has suggested April 5 as the date for the holding of Cambodia's presidential election, Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in a statement released yesterday.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri was informed of the suggestion during talks with the prince in Beijing on Monday, Prince Sihanouk said in a report to his supporters.

The prince said the Thai minister and delegates sought his opinion on breaking the deadlock in Cambodia during the talks, which lasted two and a half hours. He presented his report "to the Cambodian people" as a summary of his response.

Prince Sihanouk has agreed to take part in and is expected to win the presidential election which is widely supported as a means of bringing some stability to Cambodia before legislative elections are held.

ASEAN formally endorsed the idea two days before Foreign Minister Prasong left for Beijing with the grouping's new peace initiative.

The prince noted that Phnom Penh leaders put forward April 5 as the date in order to allow him "sufficient time" to help reestablish peace and security and bring forward the "best possible conditions" for legislative elections.

The presidential election is not provided for by the October 1991 Paris peace agreement but is expected to be called by a United Nations resolution.

The Khmer Rouge have disrupted the peace process by refusing to disarm and have made it clear that they would not join legislative elections unless a neutral political environment is assured.

The UN Security Council has sought to make the Khmer Rouge comply with the peace process by imposing an embargo on oil products, endorsing a log export ban and suggesting similar economic pressure on gems.

Prince Sihanouk stressed that sanctions would not work because they would only serve to "harden the Khmer Rouge position" and set them further apart from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Phnom Penh and the peace process.

Instead, the prince advocated a negotiated approach, offering to talk with the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh in order to avoid "clashes" between them and to bring the radical Maoists back to "the mainstream of our national community."

The prince pointed out that there were "Khmer and intra-Khmer problems" which he, as an elected president, could solve to a certain extent. But UNTAC, as a non-Cambodian entity, would not be able to solve them "even partially."

He promised to organise frequent meetings of eligible Cambodian political parties in order to help promote participation in the solution of national problems and overcome the difficulties of democratisation, unification and stabilisation.

The prince stressed that the elected president would be able to help Cambodia avert "major accidents" provided he was granted "sufficient power to decide."

The prince noted that he had so far been unable to bend Khmer Rouge insistence on the departure of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the transfer of power assumed by Phnom Penh's State of Cambodia to the Supreme National Council (SNC).

He pointed out that UNTAC, which is empowered to decide on "all useful questions", had made clear that it could not yield on these two points.

Hor Namhong on Proposed 5 Apr Date

BK2001073993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, representing Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], recently took part in the signing of the treaty banning chemical weapons, held from 13 to 15 January 1993 in Paris.

The opening meeting was presided over by French president H.E. Francois Mitterrand. H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN Secretary General, and other important personalities were also present. Over 150 countries participated in this signing ceremony.

On 15 January, the foreign minister, on behalf of the SNC, signed the treaty. During his stay in Paris, H.E. Hor Namhong held talks with H.E. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN Secretary General; H.E. Roland Dumas, French foreign minister; H.E. Claude Cheysson, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the European Parliament and former French foreign minister; and a number of French figures.

During the talks, H.E. the Foreign Minister informed his interlocutors about the current implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia, particularly the Khmer Rouge threat to the agreement as well as the danger this group is creating and will create in the future for the entire Cambodian people and nation. Also, the minister stressed that the UN Security Council [UNSC] should take measures to end the Khmer Rouge's dangerous military activities and expel them from the agreement if they refuse to take part in the elections.

The foreign minister also suggested that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] implement the UNSC resolutions, and in particular prevent the Khmer Rouge from destroying Cambodia's natural resources such as forests and precious stones, which they are selling to foreigners without any consideration to national interest.

H.E. Hor Namhong also presented the SOC proposal calling for the presidential election to be held on 5 April 1993. This would allow His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, to carry out his task of national reconciliation and solve the crisis created by the Khmer Rouge.

Other matters relating to the implementation and violation of the agreement by the Khmer Rouge were also discussed. The talks took place in a cordial and happy atmosphere with mutual understanding on all the issues raised.

KR Restricts 12 UN Peacekeepers in Pailin

BK2001074893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 20 Jan 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 20 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge [KR] claimed Wednesday that U.N. peacekeepers were aiding the Phnom Penh "puppet regime" guided by Vietnamese aggressors in an offensive to capture their stronghold at Pailin.

The charge came as the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said 12 peacekeepers in the Khmer Rouge gem-mining town of Pailin were placed under armed guard by several guerrillas and restricted to the town center.

The Khmer Rouge have also forbidden all U.N. helicopter flights to Pailin, even in the case of medical emergency, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

"They are free to move outside of their house and inside Pailin," he said. "They've gone to the market to buy some food and other things."

However, the 12 could only be reached by a long journey over poorly maintained dirt roads. The peacekeepers are also forbidden to make a one-hour road trip to Thailand, he said.

The 12 include four Australian signallers, four British mine clearers, three military observers from the United States, Ireland and Ghana and two Cambodian interpreters.

Falt would not comment when asked whether the United Nations was considering pulling the peacekeeping presence out of Pailin.

The Khmer Rouge have recently confronted the Pailin peacekeepers in a hostile manner on several occasions, accusing the American officer there of spying.

The faction claimed to have captured four Vietnamese officers in the "suppression operation carried out by the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets with the support of some UNTAC chiefs aimed at capturing Pailin area".

UNTAC military sources verified that fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government forces had occurred in Battambang Province on the way to Pailin. The extent of it was not immediately known.

The Phnom Penh government has previously said the Khmer Rouge were attempting to take Battambang's provincial capital during fighting in December. However, it is Phnom Penh's forces that have gained ground.

The Khmer Rouge claimed to have killed or wounded 97 "enemy men," captured 102, including the four Vietnamese, and recruited 400 defectors in the Battambang fighting.

The Khmer Rouge maintain that Vietnamese troops are still fighting in Cambodia, despite Hanoi's assertion that all soldiers withdrew in 1989 after invading a decade earlier.

UNTAC has said it can find no evidence of former Vietnamese units in Cambodia.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi and other U.N. officials "have been all along echoing the Vietnamese and their puppets' fallacious claim that there is not Vietnamese," the Khmer Rouge statement said.

The Khmer Rouge claim two million Vietnamese have received Cambodian citizenship. Other estimates put the number of Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia at 250,000, but the real figure is unknown. The Khmer Rouge proposed setting up special police and military units—which would include the guerrillas—in all districts of northwestern Battambang Province as a way to end the fighting.

The police would "keep law and order in every village, commune and district," while the military would "create appropriate conditions for preventing any fighting, large or small, in the whole province of Battambang."

The Khmer Rouge said they were acting with "the most sincere goodwill" in order to solve the problem.

Interim Government Proposal Said Unrealistic

BK2001035593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jan 93 p A8

[Article by Kulachada Chaiphipat Entitled: "Interim Khmer Government Not Practical"]

[Text] ASEAN's move to support the holding of presidential elections in Cambodia prior to the UN-planned general election in May is indeed laudable, as it shows the regional grouping's sensitivity to the present scenario in Indochina and their commitment in implementing the Paris Peace Accords signed last October.

However, the proposal by ASEAN—spearheaded by Thailand and Indonesia—to form an interim quadpartite government right after the presidential election but before the general election seems shortsighted at this juncture.

Price Norodom Sihanouk, whose role in Cambodia has been given strong significance recently by ASEAN support was quick to point out that such an idea was unrealistic as it would be immediately rejected by the Phnom Penh government. Instead however, the prince insisted that a flexible body was a prerequisite in the transitional period leading to the May elections.

According to analysts, the setting up of a four-party government to replace the existing Supreme National Council would renew bitter arguments of "power-sharing" which plagued the Cambodian peace process two years ago.

The plan, if materialized, would be an embarrassment to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which is now administrating Cambodia in accordance with the Paris Accords, in order to pave the way for free and fair elections to a Constituent Assembly in May.

"It is like searching a way out of the labyrinth and suddenly finding oneself at the same place," said one opponent to the idea.

He said the past difficulties encountered by the four factions when they set up the SNC should be a good reminder that the idea of a quadpartite interim government would be easier said than done. The Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government began running Cambodia after they ousted the Khmer Rouge in 1979 in an invasion. From 1979 till the UN-brokered Paris Accords were signed in October last year, the Khmer Rouge together with the Sihanoukists (Funcinpec) [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) were engaged in a civil war against the Phnom Penh govemment.

Phnom Penh and its three rival factions were locked in dispute during a meeting in June 1991 in Jakarta over the SNC presidency as well as their representation in the body.

Subsequently at the Phatthaya meeting, the Cambodian factions agreed to a six-plus-two-two-two formula in which Phnom Penh got six seats while the other three factions were given two seats each with Prince Norodom Sihanouk as president.

The new idea was aimed at transforming the SNC [Supreme National Council] from a "collegial presidency of sovereign and united Cambodia" into a council of ministers with Sihanouk as its president to supervise the existing state apparatus of all parties in order to ensure a neutral political environment leading up to the May election.

ASEAN thinks that having Sihanouk as the Cambodian president would be insufficient to ensure a stronger role for the SNC. The regional grouping believes the SNC has to be enhanced also by other means to break the present gridlock in Cambodia and encourage the Khmer Rouge to come back into the fold of the Paris Accords.

However, some ASEAN members expressed fear that having Sihanouk as president would create a fait accompli for the Phnom Penh as the Hun Sen-led government would then claim that they are legitimate administration of Cambodia with the Prince as president.

A Western diplomat said Phnom Penh whose current state apparatus remains intact and supervised by UNTAC under the peace agreement would obviously turn down the idea of power sharing. It is quite obvious, said the diplomat, that if Phnom Penh decides to agree to power-sharing, they would lose hold of the areas they presently control in Cambodia. The diplomat said, the only body Phnom Penh can be compelled to share power with is UNTAC. "The new proposed interim government would rid Phnom Penh of the right in directing its own organization and consequently shift the result of general election in favour of the resistance," said the diplomat.

He added the resistance groups would then join hands in fuelling anti-Vietnamese sentiments to undermine Phnom Penh's current electoral efforts in trying to guarantee that they win the most number of seats to control Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge together with FUNCINPEC and the KPNLF could control more than one third of Cambodian territory, wresting control of the present 80 per cent under the hold of the Phnom Penh government.

The same diplomat said UNTAC would not accept the ASEAN idea of an interim quadripartite government because that would mean that its role in ensuring the Peace Accords are on track leading up to the May elections would be downgraded. The diplomat also added that UNTAC's credibility would also be eroded and time frame for the peace process would also be tampered with.

"It is no guarantee that the Cambodian time frame would follow once the central role is taken over by the Cambodians," the diplomat said. "There is ample proof that in the past, Cambodians could not settle any problem on their own."

The UN wants the May election to go ahead as planned and its peacekeepers would leave Cambodia by August or September due to the budget constraints.

While the presidential election has gained acceptance as an immediate solution to the current impasse, the heavier task is now placed on Sihanouk to find an acceptable interim body that will satisfy both Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge. Time is indeed running out, as the Khmer Rouge have less then a week to join in the election with the deadline given by the United Nations.

By Jan 27—one day before a scheduled meeting of the SNC in Beijing—all of the parties contesting in the elections must have completed registration or they will not be allowed to participate. The Khmer Rouge have not cooperated with UN attempts to get them to register. Although they declared the formation of a political party last year, they have yet to register it with UNTAC.

Minister Signs Accord on French Insurance Aid

BK1501093393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] On the evening of 13 January at the Kambodiana Inn, Chhay Than, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and minister of finance, and (Alain Edmond-Rubert), head of the European Division of France's Maritime and Overland Insurance Company, signed a convention on the company's technical assistance to Cambodian National Insurance Company.

French Ambassador to Cambodia Phillipe Coste was also present.

The main objective of this convention is to encourage and assure all investment companies in Cambodia as well as to help boost the growth of Cambodia's economy.

The French company's technical team will advise the Cambodian National Insurance Company on operations. For itself, the French company will provide insurance policies on the needs of clients [words indistinct] covering all categories of accidents, such as those involving cars, fire, general mishaps, construction, merchandise, shipping, finance, and so on.

The company will begin business at the beginning of July 1993 with a registered capital of U.S. $2 million.

Indonesia

Press Views Clinton Inauguration, Policies

BK2101095393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 21 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS says that the inauguration of Bill Clinton as President of United States yesterday also marks the beginning of hard work by the new administration to solve several local and international problems considering that the United States is the only superpower in the world. Based on this fact, Bill Clinton, like it or not, has to spend time sorting out foreign affairs, although his priority is solving domestic problems first. Being the sole superpower in the world, the international community, as well as Americans themselves, are placing high hopes on the President for world peace and human prosperity.

Meanwhile, PELITA foresees the great challenges to be faced by Bill Clinton, particularly handling foreign affairs. This daily says that an extensive far-reaching policy is required for solving foreign affairs problems so that what is expected of him can be achieved. According to PELITA, Bill Clinton will have to use military power, if and when it is required, to force those who oppose the implementation of resolutions adopted the UN Security Council.

Commenting on Bill Clinton's inauguration, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA daily agrees with the statement made by Trade Minister Arifin Siregar that Indonesia need not be pessimistic about the new economic policy under the new President of the United States because it not clear yet. This is because Clinton's economic policy, which tries to scale down the current account deficit and promotes growth of industrial productivity, remains favorable to Indonesia.

Bandung-based PIKIRAN RAKYAT expresses hope that Bill Clinton will be wiser and will not be trapped in issues that will bring failure to the economic policy of his country. This is because an economic slowdown in the United States will have a negative impact on other countries all over the world. In this connection, the United States' new image under the leadership of young Bill Clinton will be seen by others through his desire and obsession to lead America to success without causing difficulties to many other countries.

Alatas To Meet Sihanouk During 3-Country Trip

BK1601085693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0741 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 16 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is expected to leave for Beijing on Tuesday [19 January] to meet with Prince Norodom Sihanouk to discuss the developments in Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge rejection to join the general elections slated in May this year in the country.

Minister Alatas told reporters here Saturday about his departure to Beijing after reporting to President Suharto on a planned visit of head of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, who is scheduled to arrive here on Monday.

After meeting with Ali Alatas on Monday, Yasushi Akashi is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Suharto.

In Beijing, Minister Ali Alatas said that he will meet with President of Supreme National Council (SNC) Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Thursday, after which he will leave for Thailand to meet with head of Khmer Rouge faction Khieu Samphan and chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

On January 21, the minister is scheduled to visit Phnom Penh to hold talks with the chairman of the ruling faction, State of Cambodia (SOC), Hun Sen.

In Phnom Penh, Alatas will meet with Indonesian officers deployed in that country under UNTAC peace plan, and with commanders of Indonesian peacekeeping troops in Cambodia.

Alatas said that Indonesia is concerned over the Khmer Rouge's resistance to join the peace process in that country.

The four Cambodian warring factions have signed a Paris agreevent aimed at restoring peace in Cambodia. The agreement, which was sponsored by Indonesia, France, and the United Nations, stipulated that the four factions should follow two phases of peace process.

The agreement stipulated unilateral disarmament to be carried out in the first phase and the holding of Cambodian general elections in May 1993.

The Khmer Rouge faction has so far refused to join the elections as specified by the Paris agreement.

Minister Alatas said that [words indistinct] threatening the peace process in Cambodia as stipulated by the Paris accord, he added.

He said that he will visit Beijing, Bangkok, and Phnom Penh not only in his capacity as a foreign minister but also as an envoy of President Suharto, who currently chairs the Nonaligned Movement (NAM).

Alatas said that his plan to hold talks with the four leaders of the warring factions in Cambodia has been agreed by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The Paris International Conference on Cambodia is cochaired by Ali Alatas and Roland Dumas.

During the visit, he will discuss an idea which has been accepted by the four factions on the nomination of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as single candidate for the Cambodian president.

The appointment of Sihanouk as president is expected to create a stable condition in Cambodia, he said.

UNTAC Chief Arrives for Talks 17 Jan

BK1801050893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], arrived in Jakarta last night for talks with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on the latest developments in Cambodia. Yasushi Akashi told newsmen that Indonesia as cochairman of the Paris Conference on Cambodia had played an important role in the signing of the 23 October 1991 peace accords that served as the basis of the establishment of the UNTAC. He said that his talks with Minister Alatas would be of great significance for the Cambodian peace process. This is particularly true during the difficult period the UNTAC is now facing following the Khmer Rouge faction's refusal to participate in the second phase of the peace process.

Yasushi Akashi added that he was also coming to Jakarta to convey his highest respect to the Indonesian Government for all kinds of assistance the latter had given to achieve lasting peace in Cambodia. According to Akashi, Indonesia is the only country to have sent two battalions to Cambodia as UN peacekeepers.

Alatas Comments on Interim Rule for Cambodia

BK2101020893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has denied news reports that suggested it was ASEAN which proposed the formation of an interim government in Cambodia prior to the formation of a legitimate government acceptable to the opposing factions in Cambodia.

Speaking to newsmen in Beijing, Ali Alatas said the interim government proposal was not ASEAN's alone. However, he admitted that ASEAN member-countries are thinking of the plan, and that other groups most probably have the same idea. Though the proposal is aimed at securing peace during the transition prior to the general election, he stressed that it is not in accordance with the Paris peace treaty.

Minister Ali Alatas believes the Cambodian factions will reject the interim government proposal, as it was proposed at the first round of Paris conference on Cambodia in 1989, and that the Cambodians had rejected it many times before.

Ali Alatas also conveyed President and Madame Suharto's written happy new year and get well message to Prince Sihanouk in Beijing yesterday. The couple also expressed their hope that Prince Sihanouk will be able to continue his efforts to seek a peace settlement, independence, and democracy in Cambodia. Besides, Indonesia also expressed concern over the Cambodia situation bogged down by the deadlock over the Paris peace process.

House Leader Condemns 'U.S. Raid' on Iraq

BK1901153093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The U.S. raid into Iraqi territory is unacceptable because the United States has no mandate from the UN Security Council to destroy Iraq. Theo Sambuaga, MP in charge of foreign affairs, made the remarks in Jakarta today. In this regard, the vice chairman of House Commission I [in charge of foreign affairs, defense, security, and information] condemned the action of the United States and its allies in bombing Iraqi territory. The UN Security Council should immediately convene a session to settle the crisis without resorting to force.

The Indonesian MP urged the international community to act immediately through the United Nations to end the use of force by the United States and its allies and settle the Gulf war by political and diplomatic means.

Implementation of UN Gulf Resolutions Urged

BK2001153893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Indonesian Committee for Peace has urged Iraq, Kuwait, and other countries in the Persian Gulf to implement the UN Security Council resolutions to completely end the Gulf war. In a press statement in Jakarta, the Indonesian Committee for Peace also urged all parties to obey the cease-fire agreements signed after the Gulf war. The Indonesian Committee for Peace expressed the hope that all conflicts in the Persian Gulf will be settled through peace talks and the region will be turned into a zone of peace free from weapons of mass destruction.

Paper on Importance of Miyazawa Tour for ASEAN

BK2001143593 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 13 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Miyazawa's Visit and ASEAN Stability"]

[Text] President Suharto and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday agreed that the two countries should reactivate the North-South dialogue as reflected in the "Jakarta Message" issued at the end of the 10th summit of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. They also agreed on regional stability and hoped that ASEAN post-ministerial conferences held by ASEAN and its dialogue partners would be utilized in the best possible manner.

Japan and Indonesia agreed to reactivate the North-South dialogue under a new spirit and avoid confrontational means.

Minister and State Secretary Murdiono told newsmen at Merdeka Palace on Tuesday [12 January] that the two heads of government reached the convergence of views during their two rounds of talks. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who arrived on Monday for a three-day official visit to Indonesia as part of his ASEAN tour, hoped that President Suharto as NAM chairman would be able to hold dialogue in whatever form with leaders of seven industrialized nations during the G-7 [Group of Seven] summit in Tokyo in the middle of this year. The Japanese prime minister said that Japan would try to include problems of developing nations in the agenda of the G-7 summit in Tokyo.

Prime Minister Miyazawa said that he would consult the other G-7 members—the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Britain, and Italy—on convening dialogue between the NAM and G-7.

As a developing nation, we certainly see many opportunities for useful cooperation with Japan, which, as an industrialized nation, is not only rich but is also in possession of sophisticated technology and has experience in international trade. In addition, Japan is a major trading partner, investor, and potential donor in Indonesia.

In this regard, perhaps we need to review the history of economic relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Japan, which began with the payment of Japan's war reparations worth 8,038.8 million yen in 1958. Since

1968, Japan has been one of the largest donors to Indonesia through multilateral arrangements—the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia/Consultative Group on Indonesia.

Japan has also provided bilateral loans for financing such giant projects as oil and liquified natural gas expoitation projects, the Asahan Hydroelectric Plant, several ASEAN projects in Indonesia, and the Kota-Manggarai skytrain project in Jakarta.

In addition, Japan has provided Indonesia with various kinds of assistance within the framework of technical cooperation. Apart from being a potential foreign investor, Japan is currently Indonesia's largest trading partner. In 1991, our total exports totaled $29.1 billion. Out of this, exports to Japan amounted to $10.7 billion. In the same year, our imports amounted to $25.8 billion. Out of this, imports from Japan were $6.3 billion.

Japanese grants in the early 1970's were primarily meant for the food program. Since the late 1970's, the priority has been shifted to education, training, and research to enhance human resources development in Indonesia.

Based on these facts, it is very reasonable to hope that Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Japan will enhance bilateral cooperation. It is also hoped that there will be a consensus on various international issues such as the convening of the North-South dialogue, the commitment of developed nations to giving 0.7 percent of their GNPs for development in developing nations, the eighth UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the UN Conference on Environment and Development to reemphasize the importance of international cooperation for sustainable development.

On the other hand, the growing bilateral cooperation is not without problems. Japan's remarkable economic emergence has not been without excesses because Japanese businessmen tend to be too aggressive in achieving growth. Japan's economic moves, which are considered too aggressive and dominant, generated anti-Japanese sentiments in some of its trading partners such as Thailand and Indonesia in the 1970's.

Observers regard Indonesian-Japanese economic relations to be still asymmetrical. In other words, Japan's long-term interests will be so dominant that there are fears that our economy will be further dependent on Japan.

We hope that Prime Minister Miyazawa will be able to neutralize various sensitive economic and political issues for the sake of stability in this region during his current tour of ASEAN countries.

Laos

President Greets Clinton on Inauguration

BK2001101093 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] President Nouhak Phoumsavan has sent the following telegram of congratulations to U.S. President Bill Clinton on the occasion of his assuming the post:

"I earnestly hope that under your administration, the friendly relations which have been normalized and the existing multifaceted cooperation between our two countries will be further developed and expanded for the benefit of the peoples of our two countries as well as for world peace."

Foreign Minister Greets New U.S. Counterpart

BK2001101493 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut has extended a telegram of congratulations to Warren Christopher on the occasion of his taking the post of the secretary of state of the United States of America.

The telegram reads:

"On behalf of the government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own, I have the honour to convey to your excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your taking office of the secretary of state of the United States of America.

"I am firmly convinced that the friendly relations and cooperation which are increasing with every passing day between our two countries will be further and comprehensively developed for the benefit of the people of our two countries as well as for world peace and good international cooperation."

'Massacre' of Vietnamese in Cambodia Condemned

BK1601092793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] On 15 January, the spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] issued a statement condemning the massacre of overseas Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The statement said that last 27 December, a group of soldiers of the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] faction launched an attack on a fishermen village located by the side of the Tonle Sap River in the District of Kompong Chhnang, the province of the same name. As a result, they killed 14 people, 12 of which were overseas Vietnamese residents, and injured more than 10 people. The savage action by the DK faction was another crime committed in carrying out its activities to suppress and kill overseas Vietnamese in Cambodia. Such action vigorously violates the principles of the UN Charter and international commitments and documents dealing with human rights, as well as individual safety rights, as stipulated in Article 5 of the international treaty on the eradication of all forms of racial discrimination in order to provide safety and protection for individuals. The DK action also robustly violates the Paris accord on peace in Cambodia, as well as the documents signed for peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

The LPDR seriously condemns the aforementioned killings of the overseas Vietnamese residents. Being one of the countries that signed the Paris accord on Cambodia, the LPDR is very concerned over the situation and therefore urges the DK faction to end such actions quickly and to strictly follow the Paris peace accord for Cambodia. All this is for peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia, as well as for peace and security in the region and the world.

Timber Agreement Signed With Taiwanese Company

BK2001105893 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—An agreement on the extraction of cunninghamia sinensis, locally called "long leng," in the area of Sam Soum Mountain, Xieng Khouang Province, was signed here last week between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and a Taiwanese company.

According to the agreement, after a trial period the Taiwanese company has [to] build a 90-km road linking Khoun District and Phou Sam Soum area. Recognizing the capacity of the company, the authority has granted it a concession to extract 10,000 cubic metres of "long leng," including branches and stumps. The agreement is valid for ten years, which can be prolonged if progressive.

The company will invest in wood extraction and transport, setting up of wood processing factory in Phon Savan town, the capital of Xieng Khouang Province, the provision of trainers for Lao nationals, and purchase of finished wood products for export. In addition, the company will also help in economic development in the province like the assistance to shift farmers from slash-and-burn practice to fixed farming and industrial crop plantation by providing crop seeds and buying products from them.

Philippines

Ramos Congratulates Clinton on Inauguration

HK2101042593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] President Ramos yesterday congratulated U.S. President Bill Clinton on his assumption of the presidency, saying the Philippines shared "America's wish for a stronger nation" and sustained economic progress for all nations.

In a one-page letter, Mr. Ramos told the new U.S. President: "We share likewise your commitment and support for a better world order where democratic values reign and where ideological conflicts are replaced by cooperative efforts for enduring peace and development."

"We wish you all the success," said Mr. Ramos, who was said to be the only head of government not to have called the former Arkansas governor to congratulate him on his election victory.

"The Filipino people, along with the Filipino-Americans in the U.S., pray for God's blessings for you and the American nation," Mr. Ramos said.

"In behalf of the government and the Filipino people, I extend to you our heartfelt and warmest wishes as you assume the highest office of the nation whose single leadership in the world will greatly influence its course in the next millennium."

The change in the U.S. administration is not expected to rekindle special relations between Manila and Washington, an American expert on Asian affairs said.

"The Philippines has a special meaning in terms of American relationship because of the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos living in the U.S. as well as our continuing ties," Dr. Robert Scalapino told reporters at the U.S. embassy in Manila.

But, he added, the Philippines should expect less attention from the U.S. since the Clinton administration will focus more on domestic problems than on extending assistance to other nations.

Instead of looking to the United States, the Philippines should "become a deeper part of the Asianization process," said Scalapino, who has written 30 books and about 300 articles on Asian politics and U.S. Asian policy, including the award-winning Communism in Korea.

"The Philippines has been peripheral to Asia because of its deep commitments to the United States in the past," he said.

Among Asian countries, China and Japan will be the two areas which the Clinton administration will continue to consider as critical, Scalapino said.

China, he said, has adopted tough positions on issues affecting its national interest, sovereignty and territorial rights as shown in the Spratlys, while Japan will continue to be America's leading partner in providing a security umbrella in the region.

Despite the tension created by the dispute among six countries over the Spratlys, Scalapino said he could not foresee this escalating into a full-blown regional conflict in the next 10 to 15 years.

China, which controls a majority of the islands, is not yet in a position to take over the whole of the chain militarily, he said. Despite China's continued build-up of its naval and air forces, these have not been brought up to international standards.

There is a possibility that hostilities would erupt, he said, "but it would run counter to the economic priorities of China and the rest of the countries in the region."

"There's virtually no chance of a major power war," he said.

Scalapino also said that despite its displeasure over China's bloody suppression of the Tiananmen demonstration, the United States won't readily commit its military force to other Spratly claimants, the Philippines included, in case of conflict.

The Philippines, one of the six claimants, has invoked the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty as a basis for seeking American assistance in protecting its claims over some of the islands in the Spratlys.

U.S. officials, however, have rejected any suggestion of using the treaty to pursue that claim.

Clinton East Asian Affairs Appointment Welcomed

HK2101031593 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Johanna Son]

[Text] United States President-elect Bill Clinton has named Winston Lord as assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, a move that presages a tougher U.S. stance against China and could help discourage any aggressive moves by Beijing in the region.

Senior officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs, including Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, welcomed the news of the appointment of China expert Lord, who will also be in charge of the Philippines desk at the State Department.

"It's interesting," Romulo said, "he (Lord) has been vocal on the issue of human rights (record of China)."

American policy analyst Robert Scalapino described Lord as "somewhat closer to the human-rights-emphasis people than to the accommodationists on China."

Lord, married to Chinese-American author Betty Bao Lord, is also former president of the influential Council of Foreign Relations.

Clinton's appointment of Lord could augur tougher negotiations between China and the United States, which in turn could check what Beijing's neighbors perceive to be its aggressive posture in Southeast Asia, especially on territorial claims.

"It may be a signal that there is going to be some fairly tough negotiations" ahead between China and the U.S., Scalapino said at a meeting with diplomatic reporters.

Filipino officials said a tough U.S. stand on China could put Beijing more "on the defensive" and help allay neighbors' concerns about its projection of power into the South China Sea and military modernization program.

From an economic viewpoint, officials said the Philippines could get increased access to the U.S. market if Washington-Beijing trade ties sour due to China's $19 billion trade surplus.

Clinton has pledged a stronger link between U.S. relations and Beijing's human-rights record, saying the Bush administration had been too much of an accommodationist despite the Tiananmen massacre.

Scalapino, an expert in Asian affairs, said he believed the key issue in whether the U.S. would retain China's most-favored-nation status was the "conditions that may be attached to it, such as human rights".

Such conditions would be worked out between the Clinton White House and the U.S. Congress, and the new administration "may impose very rigid conditions," Scalapino said.

Beijing "won't be too happy with Lord's appointment because he has been vocal in criticizing human rights and favored (the creation of) Radio Free Asia," Scalapino said. He described Lord, who will occupy what was once U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon's position, as a "realist and not an ideologue."

Scalapino observed that U.S.-China ties would be affected by "the ability to reach agreement on economic issues," such as Beijing's trade surplus with America, and on the issue of China's military sales.

Scalapino said his "guess" was that the Clinton administration would put emphasis on the need to curb the U.S.' trade deficit with China, while "allowing nongovernmental organizations and legislators to put stress on human rights ... there will be efforts to reach some degree of accommodation (combined with) contention."

While Asian nations will always worry about China's intentions, Scalapino said he did not think Beijing would risk offending its Asean neighbors at a time when it wanted to safeguard its economic growth.

At the same time, he conceded that China tended to take a tougher position on issues involving sovereignty and as there was a "resurgent" nationalism there he called the "central kingdom complex."

Meanwhile, President Ramos sent a letter to Clinton wishing him "all-the-success" as he takes over from George Bush today.

"We share with you America's wish for a stronger nation and the hope for equitable and sustained economic progress, not just for our respective peoples, but for all nations.

"We share likewise your commitment for a better world order where democratic values reign and where ideological conflicts are replaced by cooperative efforts for enduring peace and development," Mr. Ramos said.

The President observed that Clinton was taking office at a critical moment in world history.

Exports to U.S. May Be Cut Under Clinton

HK2101010093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[From the "ABC-DWET Television News" program]

[Text] Exports to the United States may be cut by up to $800 million if the Philippines fails to stop violations of intellectual property rights [IPR].

This is expected with the inauguration of President Bill Clinton's administration, which is expected to give priority to protecting U.S. industries.

This concern was raised by Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary Edsel Custodio.

[Begin Custodio recording in English] The election of President Clinton really was based on his domestic, inward-looking agenda, especially the question of job creation and protection of business interests in the United States. [end recording]

The Clinton administration is expected to become stricter on foreign businessmen while it resolves such problems as unemployment and budget deficit.

As a protection to continued imitations of their products by developing countries, the United States is expected to insist on compliance with IPR. If the Philippines cannot meet this condition, the country may lose its privilege to export to the United States at reduced tariffs through the General System of Preference [GSP].

[Begin Custodio recording in English] If they find that there are measures being implemented by developing countries which are contrary to their trade interest, they can use the GSP as a possible measure of retaliation. [end recording]

Romulo Sees U.S. Economic Growth as Benefit

HK1901070793 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] In the run-up to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's inauguration, his avowed focus on domestic issues will not have negative implications for the Philippines, Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo feels.

"We recognize President Clinton's basic concern, for the United States to regain her economic strength so she can continue leading the world. We do want him to succeed in fully reinvigorating the U.S. economy. A strong American economy benefits everybody directly, just as a sluggish one dampens other economies, such as ours, which depend much on the U.S. market," Mr. Romulo explained.

"We don't think this preoccupation with domestic problems will mean turning away from foreign policy matters. A strong domestic policy and a solid foreign policy are not mutually exclusive." Mr. Clinton himself, the foreign secretary pointed out, "said an American withdrawal from the world will hurt them at home."

The direction of U.S.-RP [Republic of the Philippines] relations, Mr. Romulo said, will be determined more by "our economic success, rather than changes in the U.S. Administration. We are aware of the U.S.'s desire to see us succeed economically, and both sides have affirmed their wish to focus more on bilateral trade and investment."

Strong economies mean better political stability and America would do well "to continue to encourage growth in the Asia-Pacific region," Mr. Romulo said.

U.S. Urged to Retain Consular Office in Cebu

HK1901092393 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY in English 19 Jan 93 p 9

[Report by Leticia Perez]

[Text] Cebu City—Businessmen here, concerned with U.S.-Philippines business relations, are appealing to the United States to retain its consular office which has become a permanent fixture in Cebu.

Benson Dakay said this is Cebu's general sentiment, not only of its business leaders.

The Cebu businessmen, with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the American Chamber of Commerce making the lead, made the appeal to U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon during his visit here yesterday.

The Ambassador was invited by the businessmen mainly to discuss the issue.

"This is the big issue here," Dakay, Cebu chamber member and owner of Shemberg Marketing, a top carrageenin world exporter, said. He also said he was personally saddened by the U.S. decision to close the consular office.

The U.S. government is cutting down its operations in the country due to its budgetary constraints.

Some Filipinos, however, perceive this as a retaliation for the Philippines' decision to send home U.S. military forces stationed at the Subic military base in Olongapo.

Dakay said about 20,000 visa application papers are processed in the Cebu consular office. It is not clear how many of these are approved.

He said the bulk of applicants not only come from Cebu, but also from nearby islands, notably Mindanao, who would rather go to Cebu than take the distant route to Manila.

The U.S. embassy in Manila is notorious for its long lines for visa processing. This, Dakay said, does not happen in Cebu.

For high-level businessmen and executives like him, getting a visa is not a problem. But for middle level business managers and entrepreneurs such as for his chemists, getting visas could become a problem.

For exporters heavily engaged in marketing their products, to lose the U.S. consular could pose a big problem, Dakay said.

Closing down the U.S. consular office in Cebu, Dakay said, would make it difficult for those islands in the south to similarly attract Japan and Europe to open their own consular offices here.

Cebuanos [Cebu natives] have been convincing the Japanese government to open a consular office here for years—to no avail.

Romulo: U.S. Military 'Should Remain Committed'

HK1901112093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] U.S. military forces should remain actively engaged in the region, the Foreign Affairs secretary said. "U.S. presence translates into sustained economic growth within the region and, given the fact that the bulk of U.S. trade takes place across the Pacific rather than the Atlantic, that growth directly benefits the U.S. as well.

"We expect the U.S. not just to react to conflict situations, however decisively she does so, but to help prevent them by anticipating conditions that might spark conflicts. We don't want conflagration here, not even a minor military conflict. The U.S. military role in the Asia-Pacific region should be one of deterrence and of participation in United Nations-sanctioned action when the need arises.

"The U.S. technological edge in 'smart' weapons should be coupled with the U.S. government's assurance that it will act when there is a need to do so," Mr. Romulo said, hinting at Philippine dissatisfaction over vague U.S. responses on issues relating to the coverage of the Mutual Defence Treaty.

"The U.S.," he stressed, "should remain committed in defending the sealanes in the Pacific and in the Southeast Asia Lake," underscoring developing ASEAN consensus on a name change for the South China Sea (see Business World, Jan. 18).

Mr. Romulo indicated that ASEAN's desire to remove any connotation of China's "ownership" over that body of water was the main reason for advocating a name change. "There is a convergence of views on this," he observed.

The Foreign Affairs secretary said he understood calls by the U.S. for her allies to share the costs of maintaining the peace and security of the region.

"The U.S.," he said, "should move to harness the defense assets and individual strengths of her Asian allies to build a common security network or system in this part of the world."

Along with this, the U.S. and other "traditional suppliers of military technology," Mr. Romulo said, "should also recognize responsibilities and obligations toward preventing a separate arms race among developing or newly industrializing countries in Asia."

Senate Approves Amnesty Rules

HK2101032493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 18

[Report by Olaf S. Giron]

[Text] The Senate approved last Tuesday night Proclamations No. 10 and 10-A, granting amnesty to qualified persons who have applied for it under Executive Order No. 350 and whose applications had already been processed as of last July 28.

The resolution, authored by Senators Wigberto Tanada, Raul Roco, and Orlando Mercado, calls for complete removal of the criminal offense admitted by the applicant, including common crimes absorbed by the crime of rebellion.

It erases the criminal liability and restores to grantees all civil and political rights lost or suspended on account of the commission of offenses under Section 1 of Proclamation No. 10.

The Senate also urged the establishment of an Amnesty Commission with the following duties and functions:

1. To undertake a physical inventory of 4,485 people whose applications for amnesty have already been processed.
2. To determine the crimes for which the applicants voluntarily seek amnesty.

3. To recommend to the President the qualified applicants to be granted amnesty.

President Ramos issued Proclamation No. 10-A, amending Proclamation 10 by creating an advisory body to be known as the National Unification Commission (NUC) which will recommend a viable general amnesty program and a process that will lead to a just and lasting peace.

The Senate referred both proclamations to the committee on peace, national unification and reconciliation, which, together with the committee on justice and human rights and the defense committee, proceeded to conduct public hearings on the proposed amnesty.

The amnesty proclamations contained serious flaws which, if pursued unchanged within the framework of the fresh peace initiatives, will engender doubts on the credibility of the peace process, some sectors said.

They said various sectors expecting to benefit from amnesty have expressed their firm opposition to Proclamation No. 10 and presented proposals on how best amnesty can succeed within the context of a peace process.

Refusal to concur, even if based on substantive grounds, may be perceived as obstructive to the government peace initiatives and inconsiderate of the desire of genuine rebel surrenderees who have been waiting for integration into society, they added.

Lack of Funds Prevents Sending Troops to Somalia

HK1901035293 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The Philippines will not send troops to the UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

President Fidel V. Ramos made the decision saying there is a problem regarding funds which would have to be spent in order to participate in the operations. The president added that the government has sent $5000 and hopes the relief effort will help establish a civilian government in Somalia, which has been affected by tribal wars that have lasted for more than a year.

UN Pledges Assistance for Antipoverty Program

HK1801102193 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] The United Nations yesterday committed P19.4 million [Philippine pesos] to the Presidential Commission to Fight Poverty.

Daniel L. Lacson Jr., commission chairman, informed President Ramos that the first UN assistance to the commission, will be used as "travel support for a high level group consisting of Cabinet and commission members to observe poverty alleviation programs in Bangkok, Thailand from Jan. 27 to Feb. 1," a Malacanang press release said.

The press release said the P19.4 million will be released by the UN through the UN Development Program (P4.064 million), UN Fund for Population Assistance (P2.54 million); UN Children's Emergency Fund (P762 million); and World Food Program (P11.773 million).

The press release said Ramos "expressed appreciation to the UN's support and assistance to his administration's pro-poor program."

"The assistance from the UN will really help a lot in accomplishing the goals of this administration to reduce poverty in the country," the release quoted the President as saying.

Thailand

Papers Comment on Gulf Situation

BK1901120593

[Editorial Report] Two Bangkok papers, THAI RAT and NAEO NA in Thai, on 19 January carry editorials commenting on air raids against Iraq by the United States and its Western allies.

THAI RAT's 400-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "From Saddam and Bush to Clinton", says that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has been behaving in a very "tricky manner" in his dealings with the United States and its allies and that the allied air raids were intended to teach Iraq some "good lessons."

The editorial notes that Saddam's Iraq "has come up with more challenges to test the UN resolutions following the defeat of President Bush in the U.S. presidential election."

The paper reviews the background of the Gulf crisis and notes: "Despite his accomplishments in expelling Iraqi troops from Kuwait and totally destroying the image and prestige of Saddam as the leader of Iraq and the Arab community, Bush has failed to topple Saddam's regime, one of the main objectives of the Gulf war. On the contrary, Bush lost in the presidential election and must reliquish power even before Saddam."

The editorial concludes: "The world public has become familiar with the Iraqi leader's aggressive and even rather boastful tone during the Gulf war. Considering President-elect Clinton's readiness to readjust relations with Iraq if Saddam behaves correctly and the latter's friendly gesture toward the new U.S. leader, it is hoped that the conflict will not escalate into a second round of the Gulf war."

NAEO NA's 350-word editorial on page 4, entitled: "The World Picture Might Change After 20 January", cites President Bush's loss in the presidential election and attributes Saddam's latest arrogance to his intention to test the reaction of the new U.S. President.

The editorial continues: "President Saddam has miscalculated. He thought that outgoing President Bush would be unable to order any attack against Iraq and would leave it to the new president to decide after taking over the presidency on 20 January. It appears that President Bush still has the presidential power in his hands even a few days before his departure. This is how the Gulf war has broken out once again. It can be as violent as the first Gulf war two years ago or it can end quickly if Iraq agrees to comply with the UN resolutions."

The editorial quotes U.S. President-elect Clinton as saying that the United States can coexist with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn if Iraq agrees to comply with the UN resolutions, adding: "The statement made by the new U.S. President should enable us to predict whether the Middle East will have peace or war."

Spokesman on Chuan's Expectations of Clinton

BK2001024793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai expect the new US administration led by Bill Clinton to pursue continued close ties with Asia and the Pacific, support for democracy, domestic economic recovery and support for free trade.

Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said Mr Chuan expected these four areas to feature prominently in President-elect Clinton's priorities.

Several parties have called on the Premier to explain his government's position on the US after Mr Clinton takes place today.

Mr Aphisit quoted Mr Chuan as saying that, firstly, he wanted to see Washington maintain its close political, economic and military ties with countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Secondly, the US should continue its role in support of democratic development world-wide.

Thirdly, Mr Aphisit said the Prime Minister expected Mr Clinton to bring about a revival of the US economy and for this to have a beneficial effect, on the global economy.

He also said the US was expected to support free trade practices at the multilateral level as well as help push for an end to the long-stalled Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

Paper Views Challenges Facing Clinton

BK2001024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Clinton Inherits a Legacy of Trouble"]

[Text] It is appropriate that in his last day as president, George Bush's overriding concern was foreign policy, specifically his attempts to force Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to observe the United Nations resolutions agreed to after the Gulf War.

Because of his wealth of experience in the foreign policy arena he was particularly suited to handle the cataclysmic changes that have changed the map of the world since he took office in 1989. The collapse of the Soviet Union and its repercussions throughout Europe, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the disintegration of Yugoslavia kept him fully occupied.

Too occupied, in fact, to throw all his efforts into turning around a stagnant US economy which pushed the US jobless rate to 7.5 percent and gave Mr Clinton the ammunition he needed to mount a successful "it's time for a change" presidential campaign. There were some indications shortly after Mr Bush conceded defeat last November that the US economy was beginning to pick up. Full recovery, however, is still a long way off and the new president will have to deal with all the economic problems that helped him oust Mr Bush—runaway deficits, a sluggish though stirring economy and unemployment. Mr Clinton appears to be backing away from his pledge to unveil a full recovery programme the day after he took office and it is not difficult to understand why.

At midnight tonight our time, Mr Clinton will take an oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God," and from that moment on President Clinton will assume all the responsibilities he assailed Mr Bush for failing to carry out. Ironically these will include crucial issues of foreign policy with the focal point being the Middle East. Many Arab states and several coalition allies are beginning to question Washington's apparent enthusiasm to use weapons to enforce the words of UN resolutions concerning Iraq while glossing over those concerning Israel's recent expulsion of Palestinians.

Mr Clinton fully endorsed the attacks on Iraqi targets by US and allied warplanes shortly before his inauguration, prompting President Saddam Husayn to send him an open letter warning him to leave Iraq alone. It was not couched in the friendliest terms and the international policing of Iraq on behalf of the United Nations is almost certainly one legacy Mr Clinton would prefer not to have inherited from his predecessor.

Other legacies include US troops patrolling lawless Somalia, the civil war in Bosnia and Haitians clamouring for US asylum against a stern no-go policy invoked by Mr Bush. Also awaiting his attention is the task of promoting a stable and economically solvent Russia and getting the stalled Mideast peace process underway again. On a less dramatic but no less important front are various trade and economic issues, heightened by the advent of a single Europe.

Complicating all this is that little is known about the new president's foreign policy. His new mid-level team is not fully in place and his nominees will take some time to get Senate confirmation.

Although midnight tonight will bring about a change of president, all the old problems remain. The likelihood is that Mr Clinton will probably find himself having to do a great deal more than past presidents to earn the traditional 100-day honeymoon accorded to newcomers.

Exit Bush, the foreign policy strategist, a known quantity. Enter Clinton, a man of promise but also a great unknown. We wish them both well as they go their respective ways.

Minister, Australian Visitor Discuss Cambodia

BK1901131493 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak has reported on his meeting at the Defense Ministry on Monday with the visiting Australian supreme commander. He said he and the Australian visitor discussed ways to restore peace in Cambodia, noting that they are optimistic as long as those involved cooperate to solve the problem. The Australian visitor also supported the idea of holding an election for a Cambodian president before the general election proposed by Thailand and other ASEAN countries, believing that through this every Cambodian faction will share responsibility in the national administration. The Australian military leader said the Cambodian presidential election will help reconcile the four Cambodian factions. In particular, there is a strong possibility that the Khmer Rouge will join the election.

Gen. Wichit also said the Foreign Ministry has played an important part in restoring peace in Cambodia, and the Defense Ministry will provide support in a scope that does not interfere in the internal affairs of Cambodia. He also said he could not confirm whether Vietnamese forces remain in Cambodian territory.

Australian Minister Supports Cambodian Elections

BK2001104493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 20 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, one of the architects of the Cambodian peace process, Wednesday gave qualified support to a Southeast Asian proposal for early presidential elections in Cambodia.

"I see no particular problem in holding presidential elections shortly before—say two weeks before—general elections. Any longer gap could be problematic," he told journalists.

Evans was here on a two-day visit prior to travelling to Phnom Penh Friday after meetings with Thai leaders including his counterpart, Prasong Sunsiri.

He said he was unsure if logistics would permit presidential polls to be held April 5 as proposed by the Phnom Penh Government Monday, despite "some advantages" that might result in keeping the Cambodian peace process on track.

Evans was talking to journalists after addressing a Thai-Australian Chamber of Commerce meeting shortly after his arrival in Bangkok.

Both he and Prasong have been engaged in trying to shore up the faltering Cambodian peace process to ensure that general elections can take place as scheduled in May.

Evans described the difficulties in holding presidential elections too early in Cambodia as "self evident" and mostly of a logistical nature.

An additional problem would be the power invested in the elected president in the interim period between presidential and general elections, Evans said.

"But it is not so much the legal problem as the basic political dynamism (of the process leading to general elections)," he stressed, adding that it was vital that "momentum is not lost."

"It is crucial to see the general election process carried through with a minimum of disruption," he said.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is widely expected to win presidential polls if they are held, "has been and will continue to be the central political figure" in the peace process, Evans repeated.

The Australian foreign minister said he had an open mind on a limited UN presence in Cambodia for a period after general elections.

He also said it would be "extraordinarily difficult logistically" to accomodate the hardline Khmer Rouge faction in the electoral process after January 31.

The Khmer Rouge have come close to derailing the Cambodian peace process by refusing either to disarm or join the elections, arguing that Vietnam still has troops on Cambodian soil.

Hanoi denies the charge and says all its forces were withdrawn in 1989.

The message to the Khmer Rouge by the international community had long been loud and clear, Evans said—"please cease and desist (from disrupting the peace process) in the interests of the country—your own included."

Meanwhile Prasong, returning here from Beijing where he held talks with Prince Sihanouk and Chinese leaders, told reporters the presidential election issue would be raised by the rival Cambodian factions at their January 28 meeting.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council, grouping all factions, is to meet under the prince's chairmanship in the Chinese capital.

Prince Sihanouk, Prasong said, is the only Cambodian leader in a position to bring about national reconciliation.

The Thai minister was to discuss Cambodia later Wednesday with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, expected here on his way back home from visits to Beijing and Hong Kong.

Also expected here later Wednesday is Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who is to meet with Prasong Thursday on Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Returns From Beijing 20 Jan

BK2001131793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri granted an interview this afternoon with reporters upon his arrival at Bangkok Airport following his trip to Beijing for consultative talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The foreign minister said he had informed Prince Sihanouk that Thailand and the other ASEAN countries support his running in the presidential election to be held before the general election in the middle of this year. If Prince Sihanouk is elected as the Cambodian president, he will be able to solve the Cambodian problem because he is well respected by the Cambodian people and has the power to settle the conflict.

The foreign minister said Prince Sihanouk seemed to agree with Thailand and the ASEAN countries on the presidential election and that Sihanouk said he will preside over the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council of the four Cambodian factions to be held in Beijing on 28 January and that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council might also attend the meeting.

The foreign minister said that during his meetings with high-level government officials in Beijing he asked China to buy Thai rice. Apparently, China intends to buy large amounts of Thai rice. Meanwhile, the Thai commerce attache in Beijing has been instructed to closely follow up the matter.

PRC Supports Cambodian Presidential Elections

BK2101020193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] China supports an early presidential election in Cambodia as a step towards breaking the current impasse with the Khmer Rouge, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

Chinese leaders are in favour of the presidential election being held in April so that the general election can take place in May, as planned, he added.

The minister made the disclosure shortly after returning from Beijing where he met Chinese Deputy Premier Qu Ziaqian and Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin prior to being received by Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong's three-day trip to Beijing turned out to be part of a flurry of diplomatic activity to push forward the Cambodian peace process.

The active efforts by key players comes as the January 31 deadline set by the UN Security Council approaches for the Khmer Rouge to cooperate with Phase Two of the UN-brokered Paris peace treaty. The radical Maoists refuse to disarm according to the October 1991 peace agreement and still leave in question their participation in the general election.

Prince Sihanouk has made clear that the return of the Khmer Rouge to Cambodia's "national community" is necessary for the process of national reconciliation.

Sqn Ldr Prasong met Phnom Penh leader Hun Sen at Don Muang airport for two hours after he returned to China. Mr Hun Sen made a stopover on his way home from Beijing and Hong Kong.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who co-chairs with France the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), was due to arrive here last night after holding talks with Prince Sihanouk in Beijing. Mr Alatas held extensive talks with Sqn Ldr Prasong in the Chinese capital on Tuesday, and is due to engage in more discussions with him here before he leaves on Saturday.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans arrived here yesterday morning from Europe and is due to meet Prime Minister Chuan Likphai as well as Sqn Ldr Prasong before heading for Phnom Penh tomorrow.

Following hour-long talks with Sqn Ldr Frasong, Mr Hun Sen claimed that Chinese Premier Li Peng supported his proposal for holding the presidential election on April 5.

Mr Evans pointed out that the speed at which the presidential election could be held would be constrained by the problem of printing ballot papers. A well-placed source corroborated this, saying the timing of the presidential election would require the agreement of several parties concerned, not least UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] readiness.

ASEAN has formally thrown its weight behind the idea of holding a presidential election as a means of providing a measure of stability for the general election. Prince Sihanouk, in a statement released on Tuesday, indicated his preference for Khmer Rouge participation.

But Mr Hun Sen yesterday pressed for the general election to be held as planned. He argued against any waiting for the Khmer Rouge, saying he was "one hundred per cent" confident that they would "never return to power."

Mr Evans, taking questions after addressing the Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce, said there might be practical complications if the Khmer Rouge were excluded. The Australian foreign minister, who played a significant part in the shaping of the Paris peace agreement, is due to meet Cambodian leaders as well as heads of UNTAC when he visits Phnom Penh. He has scheduled meetings here today with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, Foreign Minister Prasong, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon, and Supreme Commander Woranat Aphichari.

Mr Evans said he supported the idea of electing a president before a constituent assembly because the responsibilities for administering the country and drafting the constitution would both be clearly defined. But he cautioned against allowing for too large a time gap between the presidential and general elections.

Mr Evans expressed the same confidence as Thailand and other ASEAN states in Prince Sihanouk's ability to bring about a measure of stability at this important juncture.

"Sihanouk has been and will continue to be the central stabilising figure," he said. He called on the Khmer Rouge to "cease and desist from all disruptive activities."

Foreign Minister Prasong said the question of holding a presidential election would be discussed when all four Cambodian parties convene for a meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) in Beijing on January 28. The SNC meeting will be attended by representatives of UNTAC and all envoys accredited to Phnom Penh, he added.

The prince stressed that the elected president should have "real powers" if he is to solve Cambodia's current problems, the minister noted. Foreign Minister Prasong stressed that Cambodians had to come together to solve their problems and Thailand could only help them reach an understanding.

Mr Evans said a UN presence in Cambodia may still be needed after general elections are held but it should probably be scaled down. At the same time he noted that it was too early to say whether Australia should continue contributing its contingent to UN forces after the elections.

The military component of the UN peacekeeping force—totalling some 15,000—is under the command of Australia's General John Sanderson.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi, at a recent press conference in Phnom Penh, noted that the commitment of the international community to Cambodia would continue after UNTAC's mandate is terminated with the establishment of the new Cambodian government. He indicated the strong possibility of the UN Security Council deciding on a "post-UNTAC presence" in the country.

Paper Views Prospects of Cambodian Election

BK2001090393 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Interests and Peace"]

[Text] It is essential that any attempt to resolve the conflict and restore peace in Cambodia have the acceptance of the four Cambodian factions, as the masters of their country, and their realization that the Cambodian people will reap fairly real benefits.

Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri left for Beijing on 17 January to consult with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, on the new move of holding a presidential election before the general election scheduled for May.

The foreign minister will convey to Prince Sihanouk the concurrence of the Thai and Japanese prime ministers over the prospects for peace in Cambodia should a presidential election materialize. The foreign minister will have to keep in mind long-term Thai national interests as well.

Though not previously the case, it is now generally recognized that the United Nations has erred from the beginning in its decision to ignore Khmer Rouge opposition to holding the general election and presidential election simultaneously.

Although the four Cambodian factions have faith in and support Prince Sihanouk, their joint meeting in Beijing on 28 January might not proceed without obstacles.

The Khmer Rouge has always refused to accept the United Nations-imposed resolution on holding simultaneous general and presidential elections in May and has declined to lay down arms on the grounds that Vietnamese soldiers remain in and around Phnom Penh.

Importantly, at the coming meeting the Khmer Rouge will have full rights to speak about its suffering from the repercussions of the United Nations sanctions imposed in December and to ask who will do something about it before embarking on dialogue on the new direction for peace.

In any event, it is felt that peace can materialize soon without much difficulty if all Cambodian factions accept that the new direction for peace by the United Nations and the parties concerned does not infringe excessively on Cambodia's internal affairs, and that most of the resulting benefits go to the Cambodian people.

Paper Praises 'Timely' ASEAN Statement

BK1801062693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Wise decision in calling for Khmer presidential election"]

[Text] Asean countries have finally come in out of the cold. They have endorsed a proposal for presidential election in Cambodia. In a joint statement last week, Asean foreign ministers expressed support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the only Cambodian leader capable of keeping the nation together.

Asean's position is timely. Sihanouk's morale has been low. Apparently the mercurial prince has been totally frustrated by his inability to deliver what he has pledged—peace and stability in Cambodia. And with the high public expectations that his resumption last week of the active chairmanship of the largely ineffective Supreme National Council would act as a panacea for all the war-torn country's woes, he was becoming desperate.

Sihanouk's illness

The prince has been in Beijing for a while, recuperating from illness, but has wisely made use of the opportunity this provides—seemingly with China's support—to pass messages to Cambodia and to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) expressing his dissatisfaction with developments there, especially in the political area.

When Sihanouk said he would stop co-operating with Untac and with the Phnom Penh government, which helped bring him back to Cambodia, it was a tactical move intended to gain wider support. The prince was right in pointing out that opposition parties, especially officials from his son's party, Funcinpec, have been killed and intimidated. He wants all this violence to stop. But one has to remember it was Sihanouk who pledged support for Phnom Penh and urged Prince Norodom Ranariddh to pledge allegiance with the Hun Sen government late last year. Maybe such cohabitation is no longer of mutual benefit—which would help explain why Sihanouk is now keeping his distance from the Phnom Penh government.

Obviously, a presidential election, which was proposed earlier by Western countries such as France and Australia and is now supported by Asean, would be aimed at promoting Sihanouk's stature and his authority, so he could take care of Cambodia immediately before and after the scheduled May general election. Nearly all the countries concerned think this is the only practical way remaining to save Cambodia from a return to civil war.

Khmers must have choice

If the presidential election really comes about, Sihanouk will certainly be the only candidate. No one would want to stand against him. Be that as it may, any presidential election should be wide open to other candidates so that Cambodian voters can have a choice.

Furthermore, to be effective a presidential election must be held before the general election, to allow time from the new president to prepare for the general polls and the drawing up of a new constitution. With a new mandate, the president could assist the United Nations to organize free and fair elections, and serve as an anchor of stability in the post-election period.

The move to give Sihanouk a mandate as president, needs first to be discussed and approved by the UN Security Council, which has underwritten the Paris peace accords. It's most probable the Permanent Five nations of the Security Council will approve the idea which would allow the former ruler to administer the country. Many of its detractors have accused Untac of acting like a colonial power, so having Sihanouk to take over the helm is not a bad idea during this transitional period.

It is to be hoped that when the time comes, Sihanouk will not waiver and prove to be as unpredictable as he has been in the past.

Paper Views Miyazawa's Talks on Cambodia, Ties

BK1801115793 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 18 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Cambodian Peace Plan"]

[Text] The time-honored and close relations between Thailand and Japan, especially between the royal families of the two countries, have contributed much to the smooth political and economic development in each country.

During his official visit to Thailand from 15-17 January, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was accorded an honorable reception by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai as well as the Thai people. The Japanese prime minister was also granted an audience with His Majesty the King at Chitlada Palace in Bangkok.

The statement made by Kiichi Miyazawa during his stay here, acclaiming his Thai counterpart for the latter's achievements in defusing recent political crises and conflicts, clearly demonstrated his charisma as a most intelligent leader.

As a normal practice, Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Thailand was aimed at further strengthening the good relations between the two countries. However, it should be noted that the Japanese prime minister came here after the UN resolution on sanctions against the Khmer Rouge became effective after midnight on 31 December 1992.

Everyone knows that Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC, is Japanese. UNTAC is now deploying men at different places in Cambodia to support implementation of the Cambodian peace plan, and the UNTAC chief has strong influence on the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

The situation in Cambodia was probably the major topic of discussion between the two prime ministers. Japan sees that Thailand, as a next-door neighbor of Cambodia, can play a role in the peace plan for Cambodia and serve as a gateway to Indochina.

The two leaders agreed during their meeting here that the Cambodian problem will look better if a presidential election can be held prior to the general election scheduled in May. The Thai prime minister supports the idea of having Japan play a more active role in the United Nations to accelerate the restoration of peace in Cambodia.

It is very possible that political and economic ties between Thailand and Japan will be further strengthened if Japan is not too concerned for its immediate interests in Cambodia, which will in turn have adverse repercussions on both the short-term and long-term interests of Thailand.

Commander: No Burmese Troops in Ranong Province

BK1801055693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 93 p A4

[Text] Fourth Army Region commander Kitthi Rattha-nachaya on Saturday dismissed unconfirmed reports that Burmese troops had been stationed on three small islands in Ranong province.

Lt Gen Kitthi, now in Surat Thani province, told reporters he had not received any report regarding the Burmese occupation of Khan, Khi Nok and Larm islands after the Foreign Ministry urged the military to check the rumour.

Referring to Hill 491 in Chumphon province, Kitthi said Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri would soon go to observe the strategic hill before a joint Thai-Burma technical team surveys the area later.

A labour administrative official in Ranong province has expressed concern over the the prospects of a labour shortage in his province if illegal Burmese immigrants were prohibited from working there.

"If the Interior Ministry does not allow the Burmese labourers to work in Ranong, there would be a lot of trouble here as most of the workers are Burmese," Thamrong Thatrinaranont said on Saturday.

Thamrong said the arrest of illegal Burmese immigrants in June 1991 had badly affected the local economy.

Apart from Ranong, they are Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Chumphon.

Illegal Burmese immigrants in these 10 provinces would, after registration, be categorized as legal aliens, he said.

Burmese Border Reopens After 4-Day Closure

BK1901041393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—The Thai-Burmese border in this northern border district was reopened to cross-border trading yesterday after four days of temporary closure by Burmese authorities in Myawaddy.

The Burmese last Thursday suspended goods deliveries across the border between Mae Sot and Myawaddy for fear of sabotage by anti-Rangoon elements.

Thai authorities were also asked to take precautionary measures, including using mine detectors to check packages from Thailand for fear that some of them might contain explosives.

The goods transport was lifted early yesterday morning after Thailand's Task Force 34 agreed to use mine detectors to screen goods destined for Myawaddy.

Task Force 34 commander Col Suwit Manmuan also met with traders in Mae Sot and asked them to closely supervise goods packaging.

Tak Chamber of Commerce deputy chairman Phanithi Tangphati, who went to Myawaddy for negotiations, said Burmese authorities were satisfied with safety measures taken by the Thai side.

More importantly, he said, the Burmese wanted to cooperate with Thai authorities as the "Jade and Gems Fair" has been scheduled to take place in the town of Mae Sot.

Burmese Foreign Minister Due To Sign Accord

BK1901043993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw will pay a two-day visit to Thailand, starting on Thursday, during which he will countersign an agreement to set up a Thai-Burma joint commission.

Sources yesterday said U Ohn Gyaw would meet his Thai counterpart, Prasong Sunsiri, at the Foreign Ministry on Thursday. The two ministers will sign the agreement by which the Thai-Burma Joint Commission is established.

The commission will be an essential mechanism in strengthening bilateral ties and encouraging a closer relationship between the two neighbouring countries. It will deal with several issues including trade, investment, cultural exchange and tourism.

However, the sources said the mandate of the commission, to be chaired by Prasong and U Ohn Gyaw, will not include security and military related matters, which are the responsibility of the Regional Border Commission. The border commission is cochaired by deputy foreign ministers.

Once the joint commission is set up, several issues involving the opening of more border crossing points along the Thai-Burmese border and joint projects to assist both countries, are expected to be discussed.

U Ohn Gyaw is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House before leaving for Rangoon on Friday.

Economic Boom Attracts Illegal Foreign Workers

BK1801043693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 93 pp A1-A2

[First of a three-part series]

[Text] Thailand's phenomenal economic growth over the years has placed severe strains on the local workforce and triggered a massive influx of immigrants from neighbouring countries.

There are an estimated 300-400,000 illegal migrants in the country.

Sources at the Interior Ministry and the National Security Council told The Nation the figures do not include the almost 400,000 hilltribes people from Burma, most of them long-time settlers previously classified as illegal aliens, who are now in the process of naturalization.

The great majority of the illegals cross border into Thailand through the largely unmarked Burma frontier.

Other nationals—Cambodians, Laotians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Nepalese, Indians, Sri Lankans and Chinese—are also streaming into Thailand in ever-increasing numbers.

The Burmese nearly all land unskilled jobs, particularly the hard and dangerous ones—as labourers, construction workers and farmhands, housemaids, miners and as crew on fishing trawlers.

Most of the illegals from South Asian and China are brought in through arrangement by racketeers who pay corrupt law enforcement officials to facilitate their trade. Others travel to Thailand as tourists and overstay their visas.

The human smuggling rackets arrange accommodation and even find illegals jobs in Bangkok and other industrial cities. People from South Asian nations generally take up work as small traders, pedlars and security guards while Chinese, many of whom have relatives in Thailand, find it easier to slot inconspicuously into a wide range of occupations.

"The growing economic disparities between Thailand and its neighbours serve as a magnet for economic migrants seeking a better life while politics and poverty are the main factors compelling them to leave their homelands," said Niphon Phoaphongsakhon of Thammasat University's Faculty of Economics.

Niphon said Thailand's high economic growth rate has helped reduce unemployment to the extent that the country which has a very low annual population growth of only 1.5 per cent, is now suffering from a labour shortage.

The problem can be expected to become more acute in the coming years, as there will be fewer people entering the workforce thanks to the government's introduction of nine-years compulsory education this year, he said.

Greater job opportunities, increasing wages and a rise in the overall standard of living resulting from high economic growth mean Thai workers can now afford to be more selective in finding a job.

According to the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Thailand with a population of 57.7 million has 33 million people in the workforce. Of those in the labour market only 1.4 million or about 4.2 per cent, were unemployed in 1992.

It is noteworthy that the dramatic drop in the number of Thais working abroad, most of them in the Middle East, from 120,000 in 1989 to 70,000 last year has not translated into significantly higher unemployment.

Also, of the 1.4 million unemployed only 340,000, or slightly more than one per cent of the total workforce, were actually looking for work. The other million or so were not actively seeking employment, although they were available for jobs that met their expectation in terms of pay and conditions.

Illegal immigrants have become increasingly visible in recent years particularly in provinces bordering Burma and in Bangkok and other major cities.

In the Burma border provinces—Tak, Mae Hong Son and Chiang Rai in the North, and Kanchanaburi in the central region—illegal immigrants take up a large proportion of the low-paying unskilled jobs. While in the southern province of Ranong foreign workers do most of the menial and dangerous work.

When the Interior Ministry last cracked down on illegal aliens, in mid 1991, tens of thousands of them were pushed back across border into Burma. The exercise wreaked havoc with local industries which had become dependent on the cheap labour, as well as with retail businesses relying on the foreign workers' consumption.

Provincial authorities, backed by the chambers of commerce of the border provinces, asked the government to be lenient toward illegals, reasoning that the local economies would collapse without them.

Subsequently, the government has given tacit approval for their employment—and illegal migrants have returned in force.

Government agencies, including the Interior Ministry, the National Security Council, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Immigration Division and the Police Department, are weighing the advantages and the drawbacks of the arrangement.

Security and law enforcement officials, while acknowledging the local demand for foreign workers, voice concern about possible short term problems like crimes committed by illegal immigrants and, if the influx of large numbers continues unchecked, disorder and social problems such as racial tension resulting from failure by the foreigners to assimilate into Thai society.

They propose that the government draw up clear guidelines to efficiently control and manage the foreign labour force—to retain them for as long as they are needed and then send them home once the labour shortage has eased.

Labour officials are divided on the issue.

Some say the availability of cheap labour from other countries has made it difficult for them to enforce the daily minimum daily wage and protect Thai workers against foreign competition. Others say the need for foreign workers is real and that the government should regulate them.

The provincial authorities and entrepreneurs, insisting that foreign labour is indispensable to local economies, suggest that the government set up a quota system to control the inflow of foreign workers and to protect local Thais. They suggest that the use of foreigners will be phased out once Thai workers can be found to replace them.

Sources at the Skill Development Department said the department will ask the government to consider allowing illegal immigrants from Burma to register to work legally in the 10 provinces where employers report a labour shortage.

They would have to register with the authorities and obtain work permits which would be renewed annually before they were allowed to work in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, Prachuab Khiri Khan Chumphon and Ranong.

More on Illegal Burmese Workers

BK1901051993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jan 93 p A4

[Second of a three-part series]

[Excerpts] How much does the southern province of Ranong depend on illegal immigrants from Burma? This much: "About 100 percent of our unskilled workforce are Burmese," according to Deputy Ranong Governor Niwet Somsakun.

"The local economy will go under if no action is taken to allow entrepreneurs to [legally] tap unskilled labour from Burma," said Somkiat Sattajit, president of the provincial chamber of commerce in a letter addressed to the Interior Ministry last year.

There is so far no response from the government on what to do with the problem of illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants and their employers can be prosecuted under the immigration law, that is, theoretically.

Burmese illegals—the number of whom is anybody's guess, ranging from the incredibly low official estimate of 12,000 to 100,000 as calculated by certain alarmists—toil away in food processing plants, at construction sites, aboard fishing trawlers and in private households.

Burmese immigrants roam the streets freely and in conspicuously large numbers day and night. Immigration Division officials, labour officials and police turn a blind eye on them, the locals are busy making money selling them food and consumer goods. [passage omitted]

Everyone seems to be happy. Entrepreneurs cut up to 50 per cent in production costs. Burmese immigrants receive very good money compared to what they would get back home plus the chance to enjoy the luxuries of Ranong's well-stocked markets.

The Burmese workers provide cheap labour for menial and unpleasant jobs that the locals consider beneath them and their spending power contributes to the boom in local retail businesses.

The Ranong economy has come a long way from the brink of collapse in mid-1991 when provincial authorities, under instruction from the Interior Ministry, cracked down on illegal Burmese, pushing them back across the border by the tens of thousands.

The crackdown on illegal immigrants wreaked havoc on the industries and businesses. The provincial chamber of commerce says virtually all industrial plants had to be shut down.

"The usually bustling market of Ranong became a ghost town overnight," recalls Sai Inthawa, who sells cheap ready-to-wear clothes near the municipal market.

Deputy Ranong Governor Niwet Somsakun says Burmese labour has been employed by entrepreneurs in Ranong since the beginning of the mining industry decades ago. The deputy governor, an acting governor, acknowledges that the illegal Burmese immigrants could contribute to such problems as a rising crime rate and longterm problems of social disorder and racial tension.

"But we have to strike a balance between the security concerns and the prosperity of our people," Niwet says. The deputy governor says he believes the advantages of keeping Burmese workers outweigh any threat to national security.

He points out that such a threat could be minimized if the government drew up a clear-cut guideline on how to regulate the inflow of Burmese workers in a way that is sensitive to the local labour market.

The Ranong Joint Public-Private Committee, the joint policy-making body comprising top provincial officials and leading businessmen, has proposed that the Interior Ministry legalize the use of Burmese workers "until Thai workers can be found to replace them".

Which is unlikely in the near future. According to provincial statistics, Ranong, which is the province with the smallest population, about 120,000 residents, has a workforce of less than 10 percent of its total residents.

Among residents in the active workforce, most of them work for the government and as office workers with private companies. The rest are either self-employed, too young, the elderly or students.

Local people are unwilling to take jobs that are physically demanding or unpleasant like construction, fishing and physical labour. [passage omitted]

Seasonal workers from the Northeast, which used to make up a substantial proportion of the local workforce in the past, are too few in number and would not accept the low pay. Most of them have graduated to skilled and higher paid jobs or left for the Middle East and other overseas labour markets like Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia where they are better paid.

Very few Thais work on fishing boats these days because of the perceived greater risks involved. Workers from the Northeast have also shied away from working on fishing trawlers since Typhoon Gay hit the southern provinces in 1989.

Hundreds of fishermen, many of them northeastern Thais, were said to have perished in the heavy seas during the storm.

Most of the Burmese workers in Ranong are from Kaw Saung and Tavoy of southern Burma which is separated from Ranong by a narrow strip of sea.

"The Burmese workers who are escaping poverty at home to work here do not pose a threat to national security. They are here to make some money," Niwet says.

"The motivations and patterns of the Burmese who come to work in Thailand are the same as Thai workers going to work in the Middle East," he said.

To mitigate the threat to national security, Niwet says the provincial authorities require employers of Burmese workers to keep dossiers on the workers to facilitate monitoring by law enforcement officials.

The migrant workers are supposed to be confined inside factories and arrested if they wander out of the factory compound, he said. The deputy governor says there are an estimated 12,000 Burmese immigrants in Ranong, all of them registered with entrepreneurs.

But most local residents interviewed by the Nation disputed the official figure which they say is too low. [passage omitted]

Although the Interior Ministry has relaxed control on illegal Burmese immigrants, the immigration law could be invoked any time to crack down on the aliens.

The Ranong Joint Public-Private Committee, in trying to obtain an assurance that the use of cheap Burmese labour will be tolerated if not legalized, proposed in a letter to the Interior Ministry that:

—all Burmese workers be required to register with their employers and that Burmese workers should be confined to the compound of their workplaces to make sure they do not cause trouble and commit crimes.

—employers reduce the number of Burmese workers once Thai workers can be found to replace them.

—the authorities impose an income tax on the Burmese workers and set up providence funds for them as well as other welfare benefits.

—employers must have jobs available for Thai workers at all times.

—employers must keep dossiers on their Burmese workers and share the information with law enforcement officials and provincial authorities to allow them to monitor the Burmese workers on regular basis. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Clinton Urged To Normalize Relations

BK2101072093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 21 Jan 93

[by Andrew Sherry]

[Excerpt] Hanoi, Jan 21 (AFP)—The Vietnamese government, masking its disappointment at seeing George Bush end his presidency without lifting the U.S. embargo, Thursday urged new U.S. President Bill Clinton to move quickly toward normal relations.

"Vietnamese-U.S. relations, even though they do not yet conform to the wishes of the two peoples and the world-wide trend toward cooperation, have recently shown progress," a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"We hope that the new U.S. administration headed by Bill Clinton will accelerate the process of normalization between the United States and Vietnam, in the United States' and the American people's own interest.

"Vietnam always looks to the future and is ready to build relations with the United States based on equality and mutual respect of each other's interests."

Clinton's inauguration Wednesday punctured rumors sweeping Hanoi that Bush would roll back the embargo before leaving office, a move he made conditional on Hanoi's cooperation in accounting for U.S. troops missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam War.

Even more than trade with U.S. companies, Vietnam critically needs International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank loans to overhaul its economy, but the United States has blocked such lending to Hanoi for more than 30 years.

Bush assured that the embargo days were numbered when on December 14 he authorized U.S. companies to open offices and sign—but not execute—contracts in Vietnam.

"Bush has left a ticking time bomb on Clinton's desk," a Western diplomat said. "Once you've let the big U.S. companies into Vietnam, they won't agree to sit there with their hands tied forever."

U.S. allies in Asia and Europe have one-by-one mended fences with Hanoi in the 15 months since Vietnam signed a peace treaty for Cambodia—a country it occupied from 1979 to 1989.

The diplomatic progress has left Washington isolated in its embargo policy, and increased U.S. companies' concerns about being left out of an emerging market.

Most significant was Tokyo's decision in November to resume official lending to Hanoi. Without Japan's vote, the United States will not be able to block IMF lending to Vietnam when the IMF holds its annual conference in April.

A delegation of Japan's top bankers is to visit Vietnam in late February, according to Vietnamese sources.

Vietnam and the United Nations Development Program, anticipating that the embargo will be lifted this year, announced this week they would hold in September the first conference of international aid donors to Vietnam since the war's end in 1975.

"We hoped for the best, but we prepared for the worst," said a senior communist party official when asked if he was disappointed that Bush had not moved on the embargo.

Vietnam's economic planners have prepared two budgets for 1993-1994—one that counts on a few million dollars in revenue, and one that counts on several billion, if international lending institutions get the green light, he said.

Other Vietnamese officials privately expressed concern that Clinton, who drew draft-dodging charges for his opposition to the Vietnam War as a student, could be slow to lift the embargo to avoid appearing "soft" on Hanoi.

The Democrat's emphasis on human rights as a basis of international relations also worries Hanoi, which rejects criticism of its human rights record as interference in its internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Do Muoi Addresses Fourth Party Plenum

Part I

BK1601141593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Jan 93

["First part" of speech by party General Secretary Do Muoi at the Fourth Plenum of the Seventh Party Central Committee held in Hanoi from 4-14 January on "the tasks of caring for, fostering, and developing the human factor for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Party Advisers and Central Committee Members:

Thoroughly understanding the renovation line set forth by the Sixth and Seventh Party Congresses and in order to concretize that renovation line through its three plenary meetings, the Seventh Party Central Committee discussed and issued decisions on the issues relating to the economy, national defense, security, foreign relations, and party building. The resolutions of those plenums were mentioned as issues of strategic significance aimed at accelerating our people's revolutionary undertaking in the new stage.

As a ruling party, our party is attentively caring for the construction of a strong Vietnamese legislative administration, making the state really become of the people, by the people, and for the people to maintain the effectiveness of the law, strongly hold order and regulations, and counter corruption and social vices.

The 1992 Constitution was unanimously passed by the Eighth National Assembly. The election of the Ninth National Assembly was successfully held. We recall that in 1991, the international background was changing in a very complicated manner and the internal situation was permeated with numerous difficulties. People worried whether our country would be able to sail through these stormy periods. Due to the party and state correct lines and policies and the solid determination and limitless efforts of the entire party, people, and soldiers and of all levels and echelons, in the last two years, our people have scored very important and fully encouraging achievements. That allows us to confirm that our country has not only overcome all dangers to stand firm but has also moved forward with our intelligence and power.

The scored achievements and experiences have created conditions for us to continue to surge upward; to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, which are still fairly big; to take the renovation undertaking increasingly to a more in-depth, comprehensive, and uniform manner; to accelerate the national development rate in 1993 and subsequent years; and to accomplish satisfactorily the duties set forth by the Seventh National Party Congress.

In order to achieve those duties and to continue to concretize the resolution of the Seventh National Party Congress, in this fourth plenum the Central Committee will discuss and issue resolutions on issues which are directly related to the people's life, especially the people's spiritual life and health. These issues are education, culture, literature, health care, population and family planning, and issues concerning youth and teenagers. Such issues will prepare our people, especially the young generation, to embark firmly towards the 21st century.

Every abovementioned issue has a report and draft resolution to be presented to the plenum; therefore, I am not going to go into details but will just mention some of the most important points.

Dear comrades, since 1986 when our party initiated and led the national renovation undertaking, this is the first time that the party Central Committee plenum discussed in detail and issued resolutions under the renovation line on the direction, targets, conditions, and measures in some areas to develop human beings under the conception that people are the moving force and purpose of the revolution and national renovation cause.

Our party has often affirmed that human beings are the most precious asset and taking care of the happiness of human beings is the foremost target of our regime. We have striven to do many things in that direction. We need, however, to clearly realize that these efforts and completed acts are still very little compared to national development requirements and the people's aspirations.

We need to understand profoundly the great values and decisive meanings of the factors relating to human beings, masters of all creativity, natural and cultural resources, and national civilizations. Efforts must stem from the profound humane spirit to develop perfect men, to build a just and humanitarian society, and to establish really good and civilized relations among men in production and living so that socioeconomic effectiveness can be increased many times more.

Men with highly developed intelligence, strong physical health, rich spirit, and good morality are the motive for the construction of a new society, and at the same time, are the purpose of socialism. Therefore, all party and state lines and policies must concentrate on the care and development of the human factor. To strengthen and develop the human factor, especially for the young generation, it is necessary to gradually modernize the nation and social life.

We often mention the advantages of socialism. But those advantages are not brought to us by anybody and they did not come naturally into existence. They must be the result of extraordinary and consistent efforts by our entire people—men of fully developed intelligence, strength, working ability, political and social positivism, and purified morality and sentiments.

It must be understood that the human resource is only improved when the modernization process of education, culture, arts, health care, and population and family planning is attached to the inheritance and development of traditional values and national characteristics. Moving away from national roots in the development process definitely leads to the danger of vitiation. Moving into the market economy and carrying national modernization while alienating traditional values will create the loss of national characteristics and ourselves as we become the shadow of other peoples and nations.

Part II

BK1801103193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Jan 93

["Part Two" of speech by party Secretary General Do Muoi at the Fourth Plenum of the Seventh Party Central Committee held in Hanoi from 4-14 January on "the tasks of caring for, fostering, and developing the human factor for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] It is necessary, first of all, to concentrate on economic development at a time when the country remains poor and backward. It is a mistake, however, if we fail to pay attention to satisfactorily solving social problems and achieving a smooth balance between economic and social activities in order to generate the driving power for economic development.

The development of human beings has now become an increasingly important criterion in the classification of countries in the world. In 1990, the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] provided guidance for evaluating the socioeconomic progress of a country, which was not based on the gross national product as in the past, but based on the three basic norms—income, educational level, and longevity.

Many developed countries in the world, despite having a particularly high rate of economic growth, still have to deal with many serious social problems. From that historic experience, the developing countries, including Vietnam, have learned the lesson that when defining a development strategy and program, it is absolutely necessary to ensure uniformity between economic and social work right from the very first steps.

Along with the efforts to step up economic development, attention must be paid to the construction of an infrastructure to support socioeconomic life, such as educational and medical establishments and public utility projects. This spirit has been manifested in Vietnam's strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000.

Economic growth must be promoted in close combination with social progress and justice, cultural development, and environmental protection. To achieve this, we must correctly and creatively apply the viewpoint that revolution is an undertaking of the people, by the people, and for the people. We must encourage our entire society and every family to care for, foster, and develop human beings, especially youths and teenagers. Meanwhile, suitable policies and budgets must be instituted by the state for that important task.

The direction for fostering and developing the Vietnamese human factor involves constantly enhancing self-consciousness, dynamism, and independence; bringing into full play the strength from within of each individual in combination with that of the entire community; and building a firm moral foundation for the new regime. Meanwhile, it is necessary to realize that every individual is inseparable from the social situation in the country.

Uncle Ho said: There is both good and evil in every human being. We must, however, know how make the good part in each human being blossom like a flower in spring and the evil part gradually disappear. That is the attitude of a revolutionary. We must instill Uncle Ho's profound ideals in the tasks of encouraging and exhibiting examples of good people and good deeds.

While demonstrating concern for the next generation, it is necessary to emphasize that all construction and development plans must be linked to the plan for investment in the development of the dignity, intellect, sentiment, joy, and happiness of every citizen and every family at present. A luminous and promising future must be built on the firm foundation of the present day.

For the abovementioned reasons, this party Central Committee plenum is of great significance. It requires that all the comrades in the party Central Committee understand even more profoundly the role of human beings in the socioeconomic development strategy and, on that basis, create the material and moral conditions for the comprehensive development of human beings themselves. Also on that basis, we must outline a system of practical and consistent policies on education and training, on a healthy cultural life, on the care for and management of the people's health, and on population and family planning. This is aimed at creating favorable conditions and a suitable environment for vigorously developing the human factor, especially among the younger generation, to establish a firm and enduring basis for national construction and defense.

Dear comrades, for the past several decades, our party has always attached importance to the tasks of educating, training, and developing man for the lasting benefits of the country and people.

Over the past 40 years and more, the education and training sector has contributed significantly to improving the people's intelligent standard, training manpower, and fostering men of talent. Recently, documents of the Seventh Party Congress also affirmed that education and training are foremost national policies. That affirmation is totally correct.

Education and training are the key to the future. We must realize our shortcoming, however, that is, that the real state of education at present is still far from meeting the demands of the country.

We have experienced serious degradation in education during the past several years. There are many causes for this situation, but the most important one is that we have not fully realized the significant role of human's intelligence and quality, the most precious asset of the nation. As a result, we have not upgraded the education and scientific-technological domains at the proper level in our socioeconomic development strategy while we have failed to strive hard to resolve issues related to these domains.

While many countries in the world and the region—many of which were on the same level with us not long ago—have embarked on the new scientific-technological developmental stage and are trying to improve their education system to reach an international standard so as to create conditions for further economic growth, our country's education, production facility, and scientific-technological domains are still in a backward condition—the poorest condition among underdeveloped countries. At present, many acute social issues have emerged and are in need of prompt action to resolve them. This situation demands great effort to improve education and training, the fundamental task for developing the human factor.

It is noteworthy that during the past several years, the pace of enhancing our people's educational background has been too slow. In 1979, on average, the number of schooling years of a person of more than seven years old was 4.4 years. But in 1989, that is 10 years later, it was still only 4.5 years. While the people's intellectual standard is still low, the number of graduates from vocational schools, universities, and post-graduate courses is very small. At present, the majority of workers have not undergone vocational training. Holders of master degrees among university lecturers and scientists are very few. It is about 12 percent of the total personnel compared with the 30 percent required. For this reason, we must enhance our determination and formulate effective policies to quickly improve our people's intellectual standard so as to catch up with people in other developing nations.

While striving to build up material and financial bases, we must enhance human resources to protect these bases and to attain new, higher labor capabilities than in the past. We must provide better training for laborers, university and vocational students, and general school students so as to build a new labor force with higher educational background. This is not an easy or simple task. However, due to the need to develop the nation immediately and on a long-term basis, we must carry out this task at a priority basis. We must strive to resolve differences and overcome all difficulties to fulfill this task.

At present, the tendency to use modern and high-tech equipment in production, business, and management is developing rapidly. Gray matter and intelligence are needed to improve product quality while creative labor is in great demand. We still rely on simple and manual labor in our country. This has greatly affected the development of the labor force, the production process, and the people's way of living.

To enhance the standard of our labor force, we must promptly include new scientific-technological innovations in our education and training. We must strive to abolish obsolete education and training methods while improving this domain in accordance with the modern and effective systems. For instance, if we want to enhance the people's intellect, we must strive to apply computer science in education. We must implant the significance of human knowledge in the hearts of students right from the kindergaten level to the general school and university levels, strive to influence them to absorb the civilization of the era while developing the national tradition. In this way, our nation will still be able to maintain our characteristics despite our new levels of development in the future, thus helping us to promote patriotism and the spirit of love and righteousness, the characteristic of the Vietnamese people, formed and fostered during the long history of building and defending the Vietnamese nation.

For this reason, I suggest that when you comrades discuss education programs, you should pay special attention to enhancing the people's intellect, training the labor force, fostering competent persons, improving the people's personality, and promoting love and morals among youth and children. We must strive to create a harmonious development in morals and capability for each person in our society as taught by President Ho Chi Minh.

The goals of our educational undertaking are great and lofty. The problem is that our party should adopt a correct policy. Earlier, when 5 percent of the population was literate, we were still able to promptly do away with illiteracy thanks to our efforts to motivate the people to carry out the slogan: The Literate Should Teach the Illiterate. Now that some 90 percent of our people have become literate with a portion of them having higher education, there is no reason why we should continue to demand more funds to make those illiterate literate without knowing how to rely on the people's help to do away with illiteracy. The state should, of course, make more investments in education. But it is important that we profoundly realize and satisfactorily carry out the task of socializing all sources of investments by broadening the movement to develop education among the people, regarding education as an undertaking of the entire society.

To ensure the quality of education and training, we should satisfactorily resolve the question of teachers if we are to take up and develop our people's tradition of showing respect for teachers and morality. We should restructure our teachers' training system by retraining a new contingent of competent, responsible, and conscientious teachers who should feel proud of their careers. This is a decisive precondition for improving educational quality.

We should come up with appropriate approaches to improve the material and spiritual life of teachers. The life of teachers has long been difficult, given their meager wages and allowances. They have had to find odd jobs in order to subsist. Worse still, not a few teachers have considered teaching a secondary job. As this situation has dragged on for quite some time, it is now time for us to take positive steps to iron out this problem, trying to carry out the motto: Only when teachers behave properly can their students follow suit.

To meet the substantial requirements for education of the people, notably of youths and teenagers, we should adopt various forms of education and training requiring tuition fees and there should be no limits for student enrollments or school ages. We should create conditions to expand educational opportunities for ever-larger numbers of people. This is to truly prove that academic duty is the undertaking of the entire people with appropriate investment from the state.

Along with popularizing elementary education with the money earmarked from the budget, we should encourage the opening of private schools at the general educational, college, and vocational training level, and at the same time we should regard as a principled matter the need to provide education to the poor. Proceeding from this, we should come up with a system of tuition exemption or reduction for those students who deserve it and should provide allowances to qualified students, especially to those belonging to various ethnic minority groups. Not only will we have to adopt a policy of tuition exemption, but we will also have to open boarding schools for ethnic students at the provincial and district levels so as to help a portion of local children have better educations.

In the years to come, the state will reorganize the vocational training system, trying to teach professions along with popularizing general education. This is necessary if we are to truly ensure that theory is to be accompanied by practice and general education is to be consistent with vocational training. We should restructure the college system and associate a number of research institutes with some universities, trying to ensure better mutual support between training and scientific research. We should improve the quality and efficiency of training, link training and scientific research with production, and strive to ensure that in the next one or two decades we can build an advanced system of education and science second to none among countries in the region.

Dear Comrades: Along with improving our perception of education, we should understand more profoundly the role of culture in fostering and developing the human factor in a bid to promote social development and build new men.

Culture is the spiritual foundation of men and society reflective of the magnitude, dimension, and growth of a nation. It is the quintessence of the most beautiful values in the relations between men and men as well as between society and nature. It is a driving force for socioeconomic development and also one of the goals we must achieve.

Literature and art are an important component of culture reflecting the thirst of the people for genuine perfection and excellence. Therefore, together with building and developing the commodity-based economy, we should build and develop an advanced culture heavily characteristic of our national identity along the social path. The basic characteristics of this culture should relect our nation, modernity, and human culture as inscribed in the 1992 Constitution. Ours is a mass culture because the laboring people, together with the intelligentsia, are the creators of cultural values. They should therefore be the ones to enjoy the fruits of their creations.

In the past years, thanks to our efforts, important achievements have been recorded in culture, literature, and art. However, we must admit that these achievements are still far from meeting the requirements of national development and the ever-greater demands of the people. What we should be concerned about is the fact that ethical relations between man and man—one of the most important aspects of culture—have declined gravely in numerous respects.

Incorrect viewpoints and negative phenomena have been allowed to drag on in the domains of literature and art. Culture, literature, and art have been profoundly affected by many factors, such as the consequences of war, socioeconomic crises, contradictory aspects of the trend of commercialization, and complex changes in the world.

However, the slow progress in our efforts to overcome negative manifestations in culture, literature, and art is due mainly to slackness in management and leadership; right-wing deviation; the lack of state laws and regulations; and the lack of appropriate investment in the domains of culture, literature, and art. That situation has given rise to the danger that the humanistic values and time-honored traditions of our people will be undermined.

The CPV Central Committee, Political Bureau, and Secretariat, and all sectors and echelons must conduct severe self-criticism in order to realize their responsibilities and seek all available countermeasures.

The crux of culture, literature, and art in our country is to foster the people in terms of intellect, ethics, feeling, sentiment, and lifestyle so as to equip each with a strong personality and knowledge to meet the requirements of the country's renovation process, and so each can quickly catch up with the trend of development of the present age.

To contribute positively to this task, all cultural, literary, and artistic activities must be developed in a healthy and diversified manner. It is the tremendous responsibility of our entire party and people, especially the cultural, literary, and artistic sector, to create a cultural environment for socialism that harmoniously welds a combination of traditional and modern values and is imbued with national and humanistic spirit.

We must use the expansion of healthy and interesting cultural activities and the creation of new, profound values capable of fostering, preserving, and developing all abilities as guidelines for our tireless struggle to help prosper and develop the Vietnamese culture to a new height.

Literature and the arts are part and parcel of the renovation undertaking set and supervised by our party. We must firmly grasp President Ho Chi Minh's concept of treating literature and the arts as a front and the Vietnamese writers and artists as combatants at this front. We must strive to enhance their capability, creativity, and ability in theoretical criticism. Efforts must be made to integrate all writers, artists, and patriotic cultural workers to strengthen their unity for the sake of maintaining national independence, the people's freedom, and our countrymen's happiness.

We must strive to include the new factors, positive trends in daily life, and other lofty values of our society in the formulation of activities for the cultural, literary, and artistic sectors. We must resolutely criticize and oppose all things that are blocking our nation's development toward socialism. We must strive to curb social vices that are damaging our good morals and customs. Efforts must be made to eliminate superstition and other backward phenomena.

Writers and artists should not shun their responsibility in exposing social vices while striving to present the bright prospects of the new regime and new life. Criticizing mistakes and condemning cruel and bad deeds are aimed at guiding human beings to do only correct and healthy things. We must resolutely struggle against all cultural poisons and fundamentally overcome the current negative phenomena and devious trends in culture and the arts.

We must, on the one hand, ensure democracy and freedom for all cultural and artistic activities, while on the other hand striving to urge writers and artists to take responsibility before the masses, the nation, and the present era in producing their works. We must strive to maintain equality and justice for cultural and artistic activities in accordance with the law. These are the fundamental values and orientation of our cultural and artistic activities.

It is necessary to say that our party's correct leadership and our state's effective rules and regulations have created favorable conditions for each of us to foster and enhance our morals and our appreciation of beauty in a national and modern fashion. We must promote freedom in creating cultural and artistic works and encourage the people's talents in this regard. We must urge all writers and artists, especially party members who work in this field, to enhance their sense of responsibility in carrying out the citizens' obligations, strictly implementing party discipline, abiding by the state law, and contributing their efforts to the renovation undertaking. We must also strive to democratize various aspects of daily life, maintain political stability, restore the people's confidence in our system, and build a lofty new life.

Cultural and artistic activities must be socialized because they need contributions from all walks of life in our society. In this spirit, we must strive to reorganize the structure of our cultural and artistic sectors, and develop cultural and artistic activities of the state, collectives, and individuals in accordance with the party's lines and policies and the state's uniform management. We must integrate the capabilities of all people's strata to build material-technical bases for the cultural and artistic undertaking. The state should strive to assist and encourage competent writers and artists to develop their creativity, and help professional writers and artists have a better life through their works and efforts. We must strive to extensively disseminate works of great ideological and artistic values through various mass media channels—namely, radio and television stations, books, newspapers, and libraries. We must preserve and bring into full play various national cultural relics, absorb the quintessence of human culture and arts, encourage the export of cultural and artistic works to expand cultural relations with foreign countries and provide foreigners with a better understanding of Vietnamese culture, while allowing the importation of healthy foreign culture to enable our people to know about world civilization, thereby helping strengthen friendship among nations of the world.

However, we must strictly ban and strive to stop the circulation of cultural and artistic works carrying decadent culture detrimental to the spiritual life of our people, especially the younger generation. We must strive to truly renovate methods in supervising and managing cultural and artistic activities, ensuring that these activities are in conformity with our political and ideological concepts and in line with the objectives and orientations of our party and state. We must ensure individual freedom in producing cultural and artistic works, create favorable conditions for competent writers and artists to further develop their talents, and overcome the tendency to bureaucratize cultural and artistic organizations and efforts to commercialize cultural and artistic activities.

Part III

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["Part Three" of speech by party General Secretary Do Muoi at the Fourth Plenum of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee held in Hanoi from 4-14 January on "the tasks of caring for, fostering, and developing the human factor for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrades: Education for everyone is a strategic target, but health for everyone is of no less importance. Intelligence is the most precious asset of all human possessions, but health itself is the essential premise for the building up of that asset. So together with education and culture, we must pay appropriate attention to the public health undertaking.

From the early days of the August Revolution, President Ho Chi Minh was deeply concerned with caring for the health of all the people. He often said: If each individual is healthy, then the people as a whole will be healthy. This concept must be remembered by all of us so as to implement it together. The concept is especially important to our youth who are the core force in preserving and developing our race. The youth must strive to study and train physically, so as to gain advanced education and knowledge, a pure and sound mind, a healthy and solid body.

The main guiding thoughts of the party and state in this task include efforts to develop sports and physical education, considering it a primary measure to promote health and enhance human fitness. They also include efforts to combine traditional medicine with modern medical knowledge in order to care for the people's basic health. These guiding thoughts have formulated concrete, practical, and effective policies and measures. The public health and physical education sectors have made great efforts in caring for the people's health and in promoting their good physical condition while caring for aged people, women, and children, thereby achieving great success in this regard. The education and public health services have been highly admired by our people as lofty services in our society. Friends from all over the world have also noted the great achievements in these fields which are related to the construction of our country.

In recent years, however, the public health sector has shown signs of serious degradation. This was due partly to our socioeconomic difficulties and limited investment in public health caused by budget constraints. Most importantly, we failed to realize that public health is an undertaking of the whole society. Thus in many localities hospitals now do not deserve to be called hospitals, and clinics do not deserve to be called real clinics. It is also necessary to say that a number of devious concepts on the market economy have been implemented at a number of hospitals and medical agencies, thus damaging the sector's sense of morality.

There are many tasks to be implemented to construct and to renovate our public health undertaking and to promote people's health, to restore and heighten our ancestors' medical ethics: Doctors are our dear mothers. At present, some diseases that had been eradicated or had been steadily repulsed, are now on the rise again, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and cholera. In many places, sick people have not been able to receive medication either because prices are beyond their reach or the medicine is fake. Hospitals are usually too far away, and local medical stations are either closed or not operating properly any more. There are seriously ill patients who have died because they could not get to the hospital in time. Indications of degradation have also emerged in the lack of hygiene in some hospitals and in the attitude of some doctors.

These facts should prompt us, leaders of the party, the state, and the medical sector, to fulfill our reponsibilities by quickly revamping our guidance to renovate the treatment of patients and caring for the people's health. The state must define clear conditions and must attach importance to the policy to ensure that poor people will receive medical diagnoses and treatment using currently available medication and equipment. In our society, all poor people must have the right to be decently diagnosed, treated, and cared for, even if they cannot afford it.

We must, by all means, ensure that medicine is given directly to the people who really need it and that severe punishment is meted out against those producing or dealing in fake medicine.

Meanwhile, efforts must be made to immediately put things in order at all hospitals and to restore grass-roots medical aid stations at all population centers. In remote and mountainous regions, it is necessary to organize mobile medical teams to care for the people's health.

It is necessary for the public health sector to study and to submit to the state at an early date plans for the payment of wages to medical cadres at the grass-roots level, distribution of medicine to the public, and construction of a number of modern medical centers, as well as health-care plans for state cadres and personnel and the people, especially those entitled to various social welfare policies.

We must enforce regulations on medical examinations and treatment and judiciously manage the implementation of these regulations. In the past, we relied on budgets provided by the state for solving social problems in general and medical problems in particular. This practice, however, has now been switched vigorously to the mode of socialization, in which the state and the people must work together. It should be emphasized that the task of caring for, protecting, and improving the people's health, which is carried out by the public health sector, also requires the supervision and guidance of the party organizations and administrative organs at all levels and contributions from all sectors and the entire people and society.

We must attach importance to inheriting and developing traditional medicine and modernizing both occidental and oriental medical establishments. Based on this viewpoint, the state should authorize the private sector to set up folk medicine hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies and conduct medical services in accordance with regulations of the Ministry of Public Health and laws in force.

Our environment is being seriously polluted. Disorder and a lack of sanitation exist everywhere from cities to villages, from delta to mountainous regions, and factories, organs, schools, shophouses, and offices to residential areas. We often talk about health care. We, however, seldom talk about health education and the application of the motto that one would rather prevent than heal diseases.

We must resolutely raise our children in accordance with advanced science. There are many causes for the development of malnutrition and emaciation or drug addiction and prostitution among children. This situation is also due partly to the lack of control, guidance, and supervision by state economic management agencies and mass organizations, and substantially to the failure to provide the people with adequate education on the subject.

At a time when our state is still rife with difficulties, we should not say that these tasks can be carried out satisfactorily only when funds are available. We should distinctly conceive the viewpoints that although our country is poor, we still can do a lot of things with good results to protect and improve our health without substantial investment. These include living under hygienic conditions; keeping our houses, hamlets, schools, and offices clean and airy; constantly practicing physical exercise or taking part in sports activities; and avoiding a lifestyle that can bring about harmful effects such as drug addiction, prostitution, gambling, and alcoholism.

By satisfactorily doing these things, we not only save money, but we also save it to improve our living standards and invest in development. The important thing is that we must carry out propaganda and educational work deeply and broadly to equip all people with knowledge and a determination that can be transformed into a practice in their daily life. This is aimed at initiating a widespread mass movement, especially among youths.

Part IV

BK1901143793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 Jan 93

["Fourth and Final Part" of speech by party General Secretary Do Muoi at Fourth Plenum of Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee held in Hanoi from 4-14 January on "the tasks of caring for, fostering, and developing the human factor for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society civilized;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrades: The entire education, literature, arts, and health care service is closely linked with the population and family planning work. The rapid population increase leading to the population explosion is a danger threatening mankind and it is also a danger to our country. It makes the targets recently set forth on improving the people's material, cultural life, intellectual standard, and health care service impossible to implement. We need to profoundly understand that if the population development rate is to great, then the average spending to improve the people's material and cultural living standards is not increasing but actually decreasing, even when the economy is developing quickly.

In the last three years, with the rate of population increase at about 2.3 percent, we have added another 4.5 million people, nearly the total population of the three provinces of Thai Binh, Quang Nam-Da Nang, and Tien Giang. Our economic development, despite some progress, is still developing slowly, causing the living standards of one part of the public to decrease. That significantly limits the general development and the intellectual and physical improvement of our race, making our country become more backward compared to other countries in the region. For example, with the rate of national income increasing by 5.3 percent in 1992, we will need 24 years to double the average national income while many other countries require only 10 years to achieve that. This clearly shows the importance of the population and family planning issue in our country at present.

Due to the quick population increase and the faster growth of the labor force compared to the employment rate, many complicated problems have emerged, directly affecting living standards, health and education services, and the cultural activities of every individual, family, and the entire community as well as putting pressure on many domains within society. That is one of many important causes leading to the emergence of many social vices such as thievery, prostitution, and drug addiction.

Normally, the national development level and the rate of population increase are interrelated. On one hand, in order to decrease the rate of population increase, we have to improve the people's intellectual standards and to develop the economy and cultural services. On the other hand, reducing the population rate in our country—a poor and backward country facing the danger of population explosion—will create an important prerequisite for the acceleration of economic and cultural development and the improvement of people's intellectual standards. We need to thoroughly apprehend this issue to outline actively and positively the policies on population and family planning, to force determination in leading the entire society to fulfill the planned targets in the next two decades, and to strive to stabilize the population demography from the middle of the next century.

The population and family planning work has an extensive purpose. At the same time, it is a fundamental factor toward improving the standard of living of every individual of the entire society via the building of families by protecting mothers and children and improving people's intellectual standards and economic development. Therefore, the population and family planning work is an important part of the national development strategy and it is classified in the category of top socioeconomic issues. The party and state are directly leading and guiding this work under a national strategy based on scientific and practical foundations to mobilize the participation of the entire society, especially the education service, to make all principal members of each family fully realize the importance of this issue and actively implement the planning. At the same time, all resources should be efficiently organized for better management and cultural activities should be strengthened, especially in rural areas, to create favorable conditions for the family planning work.

We must consider the population and family planning work as a highly profitable and direct socioeconomic investment. The resource to invest in this work is mobilized from the national budget, international aid, and contributions from the entire society. In the first stage, the government will mainly perform the task. When this work becomes a voluntary and popular campaign of the whole nation, every individual and family will shoulder the main role.

Dear comrades, all issues of education, culture, literature, health care, and population and family planning actually are an issue of essential investment for human development, especially for the young generation. Our party profoundly realizes the role of the youth and considers the youth as recipients of the results of development after a long period of time, as well as a main force in producing those results. Therefore, noone but the youth will take the central position in the strategy for the development of the human factor and resources in our country.

Indeed, the success of the national renovation and the deserved position of our country in the world community in the 21st century are mainly decided by the current youth force. The firm step of Vietnam's revolution in the socialist path depends on the training and forging of the young generation. It is possible to say that youth work is the vital issue of our nation. It decides the success or failure of our revolution. As Uncle Ho used to say: For the 10-year undertaking, we must plant trees, for the 100-year undertaking, we must cultivate men.

It can be said that our youth are a huge labor force with great potential. However, they are facing difficulties in finding jobs, in studying, and in promoting physical fitness. Some of them have also led a debauched life and engaged in serious social vices. To fully develop the strength and great potential of the youth, to help them to overcome difficulties and negativism, and to satisfactorily implement their role, our party must quickly revamp and improve the youth-related tasks. Most importantly, we must formulate a youth strategy in the new stage.

The goals of this strategy are, on the one hand, to form, train, and foster the new generation to implant in them a high sense of responsibility and to enhance their intelligence, good health, and professional skills. We must ensure that they lead a healthy life with love and integrity while promoting patriotism and enhancing the spirit of pure internationalism. We must build a competent younger generation with a firm political foundation and capabilities to lead our country into the new era. On the other hand, we must truly revamp the youth-related tasks set by the party, state, and our society so as to enable them to fulfill their historic mission.

To fulfill these tasks, our party and state must formulate and perfect policies regarding youth so as to develop their creativity while creating favorable conditions for them to greatly contribute their efforts to society and to quickly gaining maturity. We must encourage the youth to enthusiasticaly build their future, defend the country, and protect our system. We must mobilize the youth to engage in various tasks while ensuring equal treatment in their activities. We must strive to formulate policies in which the potential of the youth are satisfactorily exploited, more jobs will be created, and proper responsibilities will be given to the youth. We must foster the intelligence, ethics, physical fitness, and skills of our youth while promoting their social activities.

We must enhance the responsibility and strengthen the youth-related tasks at various party organizations. Each party member must have a firm understanding of the younger generation, strive to care for the youth, and establish staff agencies to help party committees carrying out the youth-related tasks. Most importantly, cadres and party members must set a good example for the youth in their tasks and daily lives. It is necessary to say that if we want to teach the others to do good things, then we must first of all teach and win ourselves over in this regard.

To develop the youth force, it is necessary for the party to lead and strengthen the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] and to enhance the quality of its organizations and members to enable them to truly assume the political role of the youth. Efforts must be made to strengthen unity among the youth and integrate them into various appropriate organizations, and quickly form the far-reaching youth front to work for the interests of the nation and the younger generation.

However, the youth-related tasks are not only the responsibility of the party and the HCMCYU, but also the responsibility of the state, organizations, society, and each family. The state assumes great responsibility in implementing the youth strategy. The more the country develops, the more the state must take greater responsibility in carrying out the youth-related tasks. The state must urgently formulate essential laws and supplement and perfect policies related to the younger generation, establish management agencies to handle youth-related tasks, and design projects and effective plans to carry out these tasks. Various mass organizations and societies must formulate plans of action to carry out the youth-related tasks to protect the interests of youth and improve their education and training. Efforts must be made to organize and promote coordination between agencies and families nationwide to carry out youth activities, strive to help families to correctly raise their children, encourage them to increase production output to amass wealth, and assist them to educate and train their children to turn them into competent people for our society.

Dear Comrades, people throughout the country are monitoring the activities of the party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum and are placing their confidence in this plenum—the plenum that discusses measures to resolve important issues directly affecting the lives and future of all people, families, and our whole society. As a result, we must strive to profoundly analyze and to define the responsibility of each sector and echelon, implement fundamental concepts, formulate key lines and policies, and find ways and means to overcome difficulties in daily life. We must strive—by using our available facilities and with the utmost efforts of our party, state, and people—to ensure that all people are equally treated in their spiritual and material lives, that all are provided with equal opportunity to study and enjoy life, that all can participate in building creative cultural and artistic work, and that all will be cared for when they are sick. Only by meeting these requirements will we be able to promote and effectively develop the human resources in our national development program.

The party Central Committee Third Plenum asserted that economic development is the key task that will impact on other activities. Developing the economy is to create favorable conditions for resolving various social issues. However, we must realize that not all the social issues to be resolved should rely on economic growth, but we can overcome them by adopting correct lines and policies and by exploiting the people's strength. In satisfactorily resolving the social issues we will further enhance the quality of our people's daily lives and bring about prospects for developing the labor force to achieve higher quality.

As a result, we must strive to care for, to foster, and to develop the human factor for the purpose of making the people prosperous, the country strong, and society civilized. This is a fundamental and pressing task that the party Central Committee must discuss and decide upon at this plenum.

On the basis of firmly grasping our party's fundamental concept on human resources and with our strong determination to work for the happiness of our people, we must strive to mobilize and develop the strength of our political system, party, state, mass organizations, sectors, branches, and the people nationwide to creatively implement the motto: The state, the people, and society work together. We must treat the determination of our party and nation as the determination of each family and each individual while striving to strengthen unity to triumphantly carry out this mission.

Immediately, we must urgently institutionalize various points of this plenum's resolution while positively organizing their implementation so as to quickly turn into reality various objectives and measures stipulated in this plenum's resolution.

I wish you comrades good health and the plenum a splendid success.

Drug Trafficker Receives Life Sentence

BK1801092893 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] On 14 January in Hanoi, the Supreme People's Court held an open appeal hearing on the case of Phan Thi Sau, resident of Ha Giang city, for smuggling and illegal trafficking in 22.2 kg of opium.

Phan Thi Sau, born in 1965, and Nguyen Van Minh, born in 1960, were caught red-handed and arrested by the Hanoi police on 7 May 1992 with 22.2 kg of opium. The Hanoi Court of First Instance later sentenced Phan Thi Sau to 15 years imprisonment, and Nguyen Van Minh received a five-year suspended sentence. In an earlier case, Phan Thi Sau was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on a charge of drug trafficking, but she escaped before going to jail.

Based on these facts and on the verdicts of the first instance hearing, the Supreme People's Organ of Control lodged an appeal to the Supreme People's Court for the case to be reheard. After hearing the indictment, the evidence from representatives of the Supreme People's Organ of Control and from the defendants, and a statement from the defending counsel, the Judges Panel found that the offence was not only a repeated and dangerous one, but also an extremely serious one.

Based on the seriousness of Phan Thi Sau's offences, the Court sentenced her to life imprisonment and Nguyen Van Minh to 12 years imprisonment. The exhibits were destroyed right in the court.

$4.6 Billion Invested Over Past 5 Years

BK1701070293 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 17—The Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam was adopted by the National Assembly in December 29, 1987 and amended in December 23, 1992.

By December 25, 1992, 556 projects had received licences with a total capital of U.S.$4,627 million. Among them, 407 are joint ventures, 66 100-percent-foreign-owned enterprises, and 59 contract-based cooperation projects. Besides, 70 other projects with a total capital of U.S.$1.4 billion are being considered for permits.

So far, 86 licensed projects with a total capital of U.S.$520.7 million either had their licences withdrawn or have been dissolved, leaving a total of 47 projects with a combined capital of U.S $410 million. By the end of December 1992, foreign companies had brought to Vietnam U.S.$1.2 billion. [Words indistinct] oil and gas and hotels occupy 82.7 percent of the invested capital, while agriculture, forestry and fishery occupy 6.2 percent.

92 percent of the industrial projects are capitalized at less than U.S.$10 million and only two have each a capital more than U.S.$100 million.

In tourism, 64 percent of the projects on hotel construction and management have an invested capital of under U.S.$10 million and three have more than U.S.$50 million.

Projects in agriculture, forestry and fishery are generally speaking small in scale.

Of the 15 projects on telecommunications and post, only a telecommunication project has an invested capital of U.S.$86 million while the other 14 projects have a total capital of U.S.$79 million.

About 75 percent of the projects are located in southern provinces: 217 projects in Ho Chi Minh City with a total capital of U.S.$1,317 million and only 67 projects with a total capital of U.S.$421 million are located in Hanoi.

Excluding the projects on oil and gas, Ho Chi Minh City accounts for the major part of foreign investments, accounting for 45.7 percent, 3.2 times as much as Hanoi.

The construction of infrastructure [words indistinct] processing zone (300 ha) in Ho Chi Minh City. A project for building a thermo-power plant valued at U.S.$230 million and an expressway valued at U.S.$90 million at Tan Thuan has been approved. The Linh Trung export processing zone (60 ha) near Ho Chi Minh City has started construction. Nearly 100 applications to join in construction and business in this zone have been received so far.

French Bank Opens Hanoi Branch

BK1401151393 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 14—Credit Lyonnais branch in Hanoi officially opened today.

Present at the opening ceremony were French Ambassador Blanchemaison, deputy governor of Vietnam State Bank Chu Van Nguyen, and others.

Credit Lyonnais is one of the first foreign banks to be granted operation licence in Vietnam. It has financially assisted the Vietnam Aviation Corporation, the repair and upgrading of the Metropole Hotel, and the construction of the North-South 500 kv electric line.

The bank has made clear its aims of promoting financial support for Vietnam's import and export operations, broadening domestic and foreign investment in Vietnam, and supplying financial services relating on the creation of a capital market in Vietnam.

Oxfam-Belgium To Establish Representative Office

BK1401151993 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 14—The Vietnamese Government has agreed to the establishment of a representative office of Oxfam-Belgium in Hanoi. Oxfam-Belgium started providing relief aid for Vietnam since 1973 and has funded various development projects covering emergency relief, agriculture, water resources, and public health since 1978. The organization has so far provided Vietnam with some 12 million US dollars in aid including 11.5 million dollars worth of food.

Oxfam-Belgium is the 13th non-governmental organization to have established a representative office in Vietnam.

Australia

Ministers Greet Clinton Inauguration

BK2101040693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, says President Clinton's inauguration is good news for nations around the world because the new administration brings with it a wave of optimism.

Earlier, the Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, said American security presence in the Asian-Pacific region may be wound down slightly, but he expects the maintenance of a clear commitment to the region under Mr. Clinton's leadership.

Government Backs Latest Strike on Iraq

BK1801104093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia has given its backing to the latest American strike in Iraq with the acting foreign minister, John Kerin, (?saying it) is in line with the United Nations' resolutions. Mr. Kerin is speaking to reporters in Canberra:

[Begin Kerin recording] They had made some statements that the no-fly zone is exclusively an American, UK, and French construction. That is not so. Resolution 688 by the UN Security Council calls upon the Iraqi Government not to persecute its own people, and that is what it has been doing, of course, in the south and in the north, hence, the no-fly zones. This target again was a military target, a target associated with the requirement by the United Nations to remove weapons or facilities that can lead to weapons of mass destruction.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you confirm the apparent hit on the al-Rashid hotel?

[Kerin] Yes, but we are not sure where they came from yet, whether it was a deflected Tomahawk or whether it was some other missile or what. We just do not have the information with us.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Kerin] I guess people have concerns. But when you have a dictator, what else do you do? Do you allow the dictator to dictate? Or do you follow UN Security Council resolutions? And I believe that's what is happening. Quite obviously, this has been the week that was at the conclusion of the war two years ago. There has been a saber rattling on his side, and his planes and antiaircraft are now shooting at coalition planes, so there has still been a lot of provocation by Saddam Husayn.

[Unidentified correspondent] There have been two air strikes now. Are we looking at an ongoing series of strikes in Iraq or an escalation?

[Kerin] Mr. Fitzwater and the U.S. authorities have said that there may be other actions, but the hope is, of course, that Iraq complies with Security Council resolutions in that there has been a sort of rapid upgrading of provocation by the Iraqi authorities, and I'll just reiterate what I said last week, that Iraq should be under no misconception about the strength of coalition resolve to see those sanctions imposed. [end recording]

Iraq Owes Large Debt for Prewar Wheat Shipments

BK2001034293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Australian Wheat Board says it will continue to sell grains to Iraq as long as it pays the bills. Iraq still owes Australia more than $600 million for wheat shipped before the Gulf War two years ago.

The Wheat Board spokesman, Alec Nicholl, says Iraq is trying to pay its bills because last year Baghdad took the extraordinary step of sending 10 tons of gold bullion to Australia to pay for the wheat.

Mr. Nicholl said Iraq regards Australia as a very important supplier of wheat.

Foreign Minister To Visit Thailand, Cambodia

BK1801025293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0208 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Sydney, Jan 18 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans will visit Cambodia and Thailand later this week, his office said Monday.

A spokesman said Evans would be in Bangkok on Wednesday for talks with Thai counterpart Prasong Sunsiri and other senior ministers on a range of bilateral issues, including the outlook for regional security and developments in Cambodia and Burma.

Trade policy issues such as the introduction of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations free trade area, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would feature in the talks.

So would access to the Thai market for Australian goods and services, the spokesman added.

Evans plans to visit Cambodia from January 22 to January 24, which he said in a statement would underscore Australia's continuing commitment to the peace process and conduct of the elections scheduled for April.

"The visit will also enable me to fully assess the current situation in the implementation of the peace settlement and to see again at first hand the work of the Australian contingent with the U.N. in Cambodia," Evans said.

He will meet among others the United Nations' special representative in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and Cambodian leaders involved in the peace prols.

Evans is currently in Denmark for talks with European Community leaders after visiting Cyprus at the weekend and Paris last week for the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

ABC To Train Indochinese Broadcasters

BK1901071693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The Australian Government is giving radio and television a boost in Indochina with the A$5.2 million aid grant. The money will be provide to Radio Australia's parent body, The Australian Broadcasting Corporation [ABC], to run training courses for broadcasters in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The five-year project will include training and management practices, production techniques, and technical operations.

Overseas Development Minister John Kerin says national broadcasters in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have a vital role to play in community developments, education, and in promoting national and cultural identity. He says the ABC is ideally placed to provide guidance and expertise in these areas.

Papua New Guinea

Meeting With Solomon Islands on Ties Postponed

BK1901070293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting between the foreign ministers of Papua New Guinea [PNG] and Solomon Islands to discuss strained relations between the two countries has been postponed for at least a month. A meeting between the two ministers and officials was to have started in Port Moresby today. But PNG's Foreign Minister John Kabutin had travelled to Australia for the funeral of former Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck.

The foreign ministers' meeting has now been tentatively set for after 21 February. Talks between officials from the two countries last week were the first for four months after PNG troops killed two Solomon Islands citizens on a cross border raid in search of Bougainville rebels.

'Swift' Action Urged To End Bougainville Crisis

BK1901065693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Papua New Guinea's [PNG] minister for Bougainville affairs has called for swift military action to end the Bougainville secession following a rash of fresh killing from the island. Port Moresby correspondent Sean Dorney reports that the minister claims the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] has stepped up its campaign of terrorism, killing 15 civilians in the past five days.

The minister says recent announcements by the PNG Government that it intends to reopen schools and airports in southern Bougainville have met an immediate response from the BRA. It has launched attacks on work parties killing six people near (Nimo) High School last Friday and another nine at (Liatora) north of Buin on Sunday. He says the rebels have also burned down a recently reestablished (?cocoa) depot at Buin.

The minister for Bougainville affairs, (Michael Ogaro), who is the member for North Bougainville, says terrorist attacks may not discourage the move to reestablish schooling and he has called for the military to be given the blessing to move in and put an end to the BRA.

Rebels Deny Killing Civilians

BK2001064693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] has denied a Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government claim that the rebels have killed 17 civilians at care centers in South Bougainville over the last week.

Radio Free Bougainville describes the claim as a deliberate and blatant lie. The Papua New Guinea minister for Bougainville affairs, Michael Ogio, said the BRA had killed the civilians as part of a stepped-up campaign of terror, but Radio Free Bougainville said the 17 people killed by the BRA were soldiers of the PNG Defense Force and not civilians.

He said the BRA killed the soldiers and injured 13 others when they raided two Defense Force camps at Tokaino and Tobago last Sunday morning.